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No. 1822.

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ADVERTISEMENTS intended for insertion are requested to be forwarded to the Publishers before Monday, the 29th inst.; and Bills not later than Wednesday, the 31st inst.
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"Most of the ancient fathers and of the earlier commentators on the Apocalypse followed the system which explains the whole book as concerning the Last Judgment." CALMET, Apoc. art. 2.

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REVIEWS.

Narrative of the Voyage of H.M.S. Rattlesnake, commanded by the late Captain Owen Stanley, R.N., F.R.S., &c., during the years 1846-1850. By John Macgillivray, F.R.G.S. T. and W. Boone.

It is but right that Britannia, since she claims to rule the waves, should take upon herself the office of surveying the seas, and of furnishing trustworthy charts for the guidance of mariners through every part of her aquatic empire. It is but just to give her due praise for having fulfilled this humane duty, and for never tiring in her exertions for the extension of our knowledge of the ocean. Generously and without grudge, she freely offers the results of her hydrographical labours for the benefit of all the world besides. Whatever may have been the sins of the Admiralty in other respects, the good deeds of that branch of government, in the promotion of marine surveying, are too many and eminent not to call for the warmest praise and admiration. Scarcely a year passes without fresh expeditions being planned or sent forth to investigate unexamined or partially known regions; and we may confidently look forward to a constant succession of them, until not a nook or corner of the sea remains undelineated. No man living understands more completely in every respect the bearing and importance of such inquiries than Sir Francis Beaufort, the eminent officer who presides over the hydrographical department.

Well may England be proud of the surveying labours of its navy, when it remembers among her living officers, besides the illustrious admiral whose name we have just mentioned, Smyth, King, Beechey, Belcher, Graves, Stokes, Blackwood, Kellett, and many others, who have not merely conducted or commanded expeditions with success, but have personally, and by their own zeal for science, materially extended the bounds of human knowledge. We might quote numerous worthy successors to them among surveying officers now afloat and on duty, and may confidently appeal to the transactions of our scientific and antiquarian societies for written evidence of the enlightened studies and able researches of British naval officers.

The expedition, of which these volumes contain a lucid and entertaining account, sailed from Spithead, in December, 1846, with the main object of completing the survey of Torres Strait, and exploring the sea between the Barrier reefs, New Guinea, and the Louisiade islands. It was placed under the command of Captain Owen Stanley, a zealous and accomplished officer, who thoroughly appreciated the scientific importance of the opportunities thus afforded him. We remember well the enthusiastic anticipations of discovery, and hopes of usefulness to natural history science, expressed by him before he left his country to return no more. Mental anxiety and the cares of his responsible post brought on a fatal illness when he had ably completed the main portion of his task. He inherited scientific tastes from his father, the late venerable Bishop of Norwich. The most important practical result of his labours was the discovery of a clear channel, of at least thirty miles in width, along the southern shores of New Guinea and the Louisiade Archipelago, stretching east and west between Cape Deliverance and the northern entrance

to Torres Strait—a distance of about 600 miles. Vessels will now be enabled to approach these shores with safety, and run along them by day or night under the guidance of the chart, without fear or risk. A new field for whaling enterprise is thus opened. Although New Guinea, fertile as that great island would appear to be, does not hold out at present many prospects for commercial communication, yet there is every probability of the presence in it of stores of rich mineral wealth. Grains of gold were found in the pottery procured from the natives, and which was probably made from the clay of the extensive alluvial deposits forming the banks of rivers flowing from the great 'Owen Stanley' chain of mountains, of the existence of which we have been made acquainted by Lieutenant Yule and Captain Stanley, and including many summits of from 6000 to above 13,000 feet in elevation. What a vast untrodden field for discovery—what a new store of natural history treasures, and a new region for geological research, is thus promised to reward the toils of future travellers! Indeed, there is no spot on the earth's surface, of anything like equal extent, so wholly untrodden as the interior of New Guinea, and so sure to be fruitful in results to the explorer. Great rivers, great mountains, great plains, fertility, variety, and isolation—all combine in this enormous island to render it a magnet of attraction for the adventurer who seeks to gather virgin laurels. The inhabitants, it is true, are fierce and dangerous; but they are intelligent in their way, and, after more intercourse with white men, may prove aids rather than impediments to research.

In accounts of travels through countries where an important part in the history of the past has been played by their inhabitants, antiquarian researches give an interest and animation to the narrative, which would be altogether wanting in the tale of exploration amid savage regions and tribes, were there not ethnological investigations to supply a similar element of attraction. Ethnology is every day becoming more and more defined and scientific. The paths sketched by Prichard are undergoing a searching survey by Latham, who, like his predecessor, combines physiological and natural history knowledge with philological learning—a rare union of acquirements absolutely necessary for any man who aspires to generalise on the natural history of the human race. The philosophical ethnologist must rejoice when he obtains materials for his comparisons from observers so qualified for the task as Mr. Macgillivray, who worthily follows up the valuable work done amid the same or neighbouring ground by his former colleague, Mr. Jukes, when accompanying Captain Blackwood during the surveying voyage of the *Fly*. The question upon which the ethnological matter contained in these volumes throws most light, is the important one of the nature of the relations that can be traced between the people of New Guinea and those of Australia—whether the races of these enormous isolated lands are linked by the tribes of the intermediate islands, and in what manner can we account for the great peculiarities and degraded moral and physical features of the Australian aborigines? The people of New Guinea best known hitherto, and upon whom most stress has been laid, are the Papuans, black or dark-brown people, mostly rough-skinned, and having crisp and frizzly hair. Of the Harfours

and Arfaki, two other reported New Guinea races, the accounts are very contradictory. Captain Stanley and his companions met with none of these last tribes, nor any people answering to the descriptions of them. All the natives they saw in the Louisiade Archipelago and on the south-east coast of New Guinea were Papuans, and Mr. Macgillivray agrees with Prichard in considering them a genuine and peculiar tribe:—

"It appears to me that there are two distinct varieties of the Papuan race inhabiting the south-east portion of New Guinea. The first occupies the western shores of the Great Bight, and probably extends over the whole of the adjacent country, along the banks of Aird River, and the other great fresh-water channels. Judging from the little that was seen of them during the voyage of the *Fly*, these people appear to agree with the Torres Strait Islanders—an offshoot, there is reason to believe, of the same stock—in being a dark and savage race, the males of which go entirely naked.

"The second variety occupies the remainder of the south-east coast of New Guinea and the Louisiade Archipelago. Their characteristics have already been given in this work, as seen at intermediate points between Cape Possession and Coral Haven; they agree in being a lighter coloured people than the preceding, and more advanced in civilization: mop-headed, practising betel chewing, and wearing the breech-cloth."

The first vocabulary ever obtained in the Louisiade Archipelago is due to our voyagers. It contains words that are common to the languages of the inhabitants of the north coast of New Guinea on the one hand and New Ireland on the other, and also to the Malay and the various Polynesian languages or dialects spoken from New Zealand to Tahiti. Yet, whilst we have thus a distinct affinity indicated between the woolly and straight-haired sections of Oceanic blacks, the language of the Louisiade "differs completely from that of the northern part of Torres Strait," though the people are strongly similar, both physically and in certain manners and customs. The Louisiadians are distinctly derived from the eastern coast of New Guinea. The islanders of Torres Strait are also genuine Papuans, except the people of the Prince of Wales Islands, which are inhabited by the Kowrarega blacks. These Mr. Macgillivray was at first inclined to regard as degraded Papuans. But the results of his more complete researches, and of Dr. Latham's elaborate analysis of their language, coincide in determining the Kowraregas to be an Australian tribe, altered physically, intellectually, and morally, by contact with Papuans. They have advanced by acquiring from their neighbours the art of cultivating the ground, and of constructing and navigating large canoes; retaining the use of the spear and throwing-stick, and practising ceremonies peculiar to the Australian race; holding, too, their females in degradation, whereas the Papuans treat women with respect. All Australia is inhabited by an unique race, physically and philologically one. Except in the instance of the Kowrarega tribe, there is nothing like a passage of the North Australians into the people of the other side of Torres Strait; and in that instance the approach is only apparent, not one of true affinity. Whence, then, have they been derived? Prichard, Latham, and Macgillivray, in their respective works, incline to the belief that their line of migration was from Timor. This opinion remains purely conjectural. But in Dr. Latham's appendix upon the Louisiade language, contained in

the work before us, an unexpected and significant fact comes out. The collation of what is known of the languages of the islands between New Ireland and New Caledonia, with the Louisiade dialects, indicates close affinities. Now the New Caledonian was formerly shown by the same acute ethnologist to have affinities with the language of Van Diemen's Land, apparently even closer than those of the latter with the Australian tongue. Physically, too, the Tasmanian approaches the New Caledonian. Has the difference between the Tasmanian and the Australian been exaggerated? Our data for judging of the former are very imperfect. Is it not just possible that the Australian may be a degraded Tasmanian, and that the line of migration of the race has been, during its later course, from south to north, instead of from north to south?—so that instead of expecting to find evidences of near affinity between the races of New Guinea or of the Indian islands, and the people of north-east Australia, we should look for what is the case, the greatest amount of physical and philological difference at the point of proximity. We offer this suggestion merely as an hypothesis worthy of consideration. The case might be paralleled in the instance of the relations between the Esquimaux and the Indians of north-eastern America, as interpreted with the highest degree of probability by Dr. Latham himself.

Much new and curious information respecting the manners and customs of the aborigines of north-east Australia was obtained by Mr. Macgillivray, partly through a young white female, Barbara Thomson, the wife of the owner of a shipwrecked vessel, of which all the crew were lost in Torres Strait. This woman was saved by the natives, and taken possession of by one of them, and afterwards brought back to civilized life by the *Rattlesnake*. A singular superstition secured her protection. All the Australian blacks believe that white people are the ghosts of aborigines—"when black fellow die, he jump up white fellow." An influential member of the tribe among whom Mrs. Thomson fell, fancied that he recognised in her the ghost of a long-lost daughter named Gi'om, and adopted her accordingly. "Frequently when the children were teasing Gi'om, they would be gravely reproved by some elderly person telling them to leave her, as, 'poor thing! she is nothing, —only a ghost!'" At Cape York, the same word is used to signify a white man and a ghost. The following custom is very remarkable, when we consider that no use is made of property in land:—

"It seems curious to find at Cape York and the Prince of Wales Islands a recognised division and ownership of land, seeing that none of it by cultivation has been rendered fit for the permanent support of man. According to Gi'om, there are laws regulating the ownership of every inch of ground on Muralug and the neighbouring possessions of the Kowraregas, and I am led to believe such is likewise the case at Cape York. Among these laws are the following. A person has a claim upon the ground where both himself and his parents were born, although situated in different localities. On the death of parents their land is divided among the children, when both sexes share alike, with this exception, that the youngest of the family receives the largest share. Marriage does not affect the permanency of the right of a woman to any landed property which may have come into her possession. Lastly, an old man occasionally so disposes of his property that a favourite child may obtain a larger proportion than he could afterwards claim as his inheritance."

Among the Kowrarega tribe, Gi'om stated, that when the head of a family dies, the body is laid out on a framework of sticks, raised a foot from the ground, and there suffered to rot. The nearest relative watches it in a hut near the corpse, until the head drops off, when that member is handed over to the charge of the dead man's eldest wife, who carries it about with her in a bag during her widowhood.

To the intelligence of the native Australians Mr. Macgillivray bears strong testimony, and illustrates his opinion by an interesting account of a native friend:—

"Many of the Port Essington natives have shown a remarkable degree of intelligence, far above the average of Europeans, uneducated, and living in remote districts,—among others I may mention the name of Neimnal (the same alluded to in the preceding paragraph), of whose character I had good opportunities of judging, for he lived with me for ten months. During my stay at Port Essington, he became much attached to me, and latterly accompanied me in all my wanderings in the bush, while investigating the natural history of the district, following up the researches of my late and much lamented friend Gilbert. One day, while detained by rainy weather at my camp, I was busy in skinning a fish,—Neimnal watched me attentively for some time and then withdrew, but returned in half-an-hour afterwards, with the skin of another fish in his hand prepared by himself, and so well done too, that it was added to the collection. I could give many other instances of his sagacity, his docility, and even his acute perception of character,—latterly, he seemed even to read my very thoughts. He accompanied me in the *Fly* to Torres Strait and New Guinea, and on our return to Port Essington, begged so hard to continue with me that I could not refuse him. He went with us to Singapore, Java, and Sydney, and from his great good humour became a favourite with all on board, picking up the English language with facility, and readily conforming himself to our habits and the discipline of the ship. He was very cleanly in his personal habits, and paid much attention to his dress, which was always kept neat and tidy. I was often much amused and surprised by the oddity and justness of his remarks upon the many strange sights which a voyage of this kind brought before him. The *Nemesis* steamer under weigh puzzled him at first—he then thought it was 'all same big cart, only got him shingles on wheels!' He always expressed great contempt for the dulness of comprehension of his countrymen, 'big fools they,' he used often to say, 'black fellow no good.' Even Malays, Chinamen, and the natives of India, he counted as nothing in his increasing admiration of Europeans, until he saw some sepoys, when he altered his opinion a little, and thought that he too, if only big enough, would like to be a soldier. The poor fellow suffered much from cold during the passage round Cape Leeuwin, and was ill when landed at Sydney, but soon recovered. Although his thoughts were always centred in his native home, and a girl to whom he was much attached, he yet volunteered to accompany me to England, when the *Fly* was about to sail, but as I had then no immediate prospect of returning to Australia, I could not undertake the responsibility of having to provide for him for the future. I was glad then when Lieut. Yule, who was about to revisit Port Essington, generously offered to take him there—while in the *Bramble* he made himself useful in assisting the steward, and, under the tuition of Dr. MacClatchie, made some proficiency in acquiring the rudiments of reading and writing. At Port Essington, the older members of his family evinced much jealousy on account of the attention shown him, and his determination to remain with Mr. Tilston, the assistant-surgeon, then in charge, and endeavoured to dissuade him from his purpose. While upon a visit to his tribe he met his death in the manner already recorded. His natural courage and presence of mind did not desert him even at the last extremity, when he was roused from sleep to

find himself surrounded by a host of savages thirsting for his blood. They told him to rise, but he merely raised himself upon his elbow, and said—'If you want to kill me do so where I am, I won't get up—give me a spear and club, and I'll fight you all one by one!' He had scarcely spoken when a man named Alerk speared him from behind; spear after spear followed, and as he lay writhing on the ground his savage murderers literally dashed him to pieces with their clubs. The account of the manner in which Neimnal met his death was given me by a very intelligent native who had it from an eye-witness, and I have every reason to believe it true, corroborated as it was by the testimony of others."

Mr. Macgillivray is strongly in favour of the establishment of a great or small settlement at Cape York, and offers arguments in support of his opinion, which, supplementary as they are to others urged formerly by Mr. Jukes, seem to us to make out a case well deserving the attention of the Colonial Office.

The accounts of the Louisiade and New Guinea people met with during the expedition are highly interesting. The dress and decorations of the natives of Coral Haven were noticeable, especially for an ornament that we do not remember to have heard of before:—

"The ornaments worn by these savages are very numerous, besides which they are fond of decorating the person with flowers and strong-scented plants. In what may be considered as full dress, with the face and body painted, they are often decked out with large white cowries appended to the waist, elbows, and ankles, together with streamers of pandanus leaf. Among many kinds of bracelets or armlets, the most common is a broad woven one of grass, fitting very tightly on the upper arm. There are others of shell,—one solid, formed by grinding down a large shell (*Trochus Niloticus*) so as to obtain a well polished transverse section, and another in two or three pieces tied together, making a round smooth ring; of the former of these five or six are sometimes worn on one arm. But the most curious bracelet, and by no means an uncommon one, is that made of a human lower jaw with one or more collar bones closing the upper side crossing from one angle to the other. Whether these are the jaws of former friends or enemies we had no means of ascertaining; no great value appeared to be attached to them; and it was observed, as a curious circumstance, that none of these jaws had the teeth discoloured by the practice of betel chewing."

The villages of the people at Brierly Island are remarkable for cleanliness and the absence of everything offensive. Here, too, bananas and yams are cultivated and pigs reared, so that there is much comfort among these savages. The most promising indication of capacity for civilization, however, shown by the New Guinea people is their treatment of the fair sex:—

"Yesterday and to-day, in addition to upwards of a hundred natives alongside bartering, we were honoured with visits from several parties of the Tassai ladies, in whose favour the prohibition to come on board was repealed for the time. The young women were got up with greater attention to dress and finery than when seen on shore, and some had their face blackened as if to heighten their attractions. The outer petticoat, worn on gala days such as this, differs from the common sort in being much finer in texture and workmanship, besides being dyed red and green, with intermediate bands of straw colour and broad white stripes of palm-leaf. It is made of long bunches of very light and soft shreds, like fine twisted grass, apparently the prepared leaf of a calamus or rattan. None of the women that I saw possessed even a moderate share of beauty (according to our notions), although a few had a pleasing expression and others a very graceful figure, but, on the other hand, many of the boys and young men were strikingly

handsome. We had no means of forming a judgment regarding the condition of the women in a social state, but they appeared to be treated by the men as equals, and to exercise considerable influence over them. On all occasions they were the loudest talkers, and seemed to act from a perfect right to have every thing their own way. It is worthy of mention, that, even in their own village, and on all other occasions where we had an opportunity of observing them, they acted with perfect propriety, and although some indecent allusions were now and then made by the men, this was never done in the presence of the women. Of their marriages we could find out nothing,—one man appeared to have two wives, but even this was doubtful. The circumstance of children being daily brought off by their fathers to look at the ship, and the strange things there, indicated a considerable degree of parental affection."

The author of this well-written narrative was attached officially to the expedition as naturalist. Some of the results of his labours are described in valuable appendices to the work. How admirably and efficiently he fulfilled his task our national museums can show. A more able observer and more diligent collector could not have been selected for the duty. The assistant-surgeon of the expedition, Mr. Huxley, also laboured assiduously in the cause of zoological science, and some of the most remarkable of recent memoirs on invertebrate animals have been produced by that gentleman in consequence, and printed by the Royal Society in the 'Philosophical Transactions.' We hope the Admiralty will not allow the numerous scientific results, as yet unpublished, of this voyage of the *Rattlesnake* to lie dormant. Rarely has any of our voyages of discovery brought home so much new matter. The volumes now before us are well illustrated, full of interest, and sure to command the attention they deserve from the public.

A History of the Romans under the Empire.

By Charles Merivale, B.D. Vol. III. Longman and Co.

THE period of history comprised in Mr. Merivale's new volume is one of the most eventful in the annals of the world. It is, moreover, of especial interest at the present moment, containing, as it does, the history of the overthrow of a republic, and the establishment of a despotism by military force. But it differs in one important respect from the events that are now passing before us. The tendency of modern society—whether for good or for evil we stop not to inquire—is to vest more and more of the sovereign power in the hands of the people. The stream of popular opinion flows in a deep and mighty current in that direction; and the attempt of a single man to centre in his own person all political authority is abhorrent to the sentiments and feelings of the great mass of the community. But it was not so at Rome. During the last century of the republic the whole course of events tended towards monarchy. Both the people and the provinces had outgrown the authority of the senate, whose tyranny and oppression, both at home and abroad, had rendered it an object of detestation. The vast dominions of the state required the firm government of a single ruler, and the great mass of the Roman citizens were willing to accept military despotism as a refuge from those scenes of anarchy and bloodshed which disgraced and defiled the latter days of the republic.

Monarchy had thus become a necessity for

the Roman people. Few have studied the later history of the republic without coming to this conclusion. Niebuhr has emphatically said, that if an angel had descended from heaven he could not have saved the Roman republic; and both Drumann and Mr. Merivale in their elaborate works on this period bear testimony to the same effect. The senate could no longer rule the Roman world; still less could the vile rabble of the forum; it was therefore to a monarch that the power must be delegated. But, while admitting that monarchy had thus become a necessity, must we therefore approve of the acts of the man who, to gratify his personal ambition and his lust of power, makes himself the monarch? Surely history may acknowledge the necessity of the usurpation without setting its seal of approbation upon the usurper. It is for this reason that we take exception to the manner in which Mr. Merivale has portrayed the acts and character of Julius Caesar in his former volumes. Willingly acknowledging with the historian the greatness of his hero, his mighty genius and transcendent abilities, his moderation in the use of victory, and his clemency towards his foes—a virtue so rare among the Romans,—we must not allow our admiration for the man to blind us to the turpitude of his acts, nor to make his success an excuse for his crimes. It was not to benefit his country, but to aggrandize himself, that Julius Caesar seized the empire of the Roman world.

In the present volume Mr. Merivale has not committed this capital defect. He commences with the period immediately following the assassination of the great Julius, and comes down to the defeat and death of Antony, followed by the universal recognition of the Dictator's nephew, as the ruler of the empire. The central figure in the picture is therefore the young Octavius, better known by his subsequent title of Augustus. The cold and passionless character of this extraordinary man,—the real founder of the Roman empire,—is not of a nature either to awaken the enthusiasm or to warp the judgment of the historian. It has therefore been drawn by Mr. Merivale with greater impartiality than his portraiture of the Dictator. Indeed, in other respects the present volume appears to us an improvement upon its predecessors. The style is less ambitious and more natural; though Mr. Merivale must pardon us in saying that there is still room for improvement in this respect.

As a favourable specimen of his style, we may take his account of the death of the great orator. Cicero, and his brother Quintus, were two of the first names upon the fatal lists which appeared after the formation of the triumvirate:—

"The brothers were together at the Tusculan villa. From thence they fled in company from one retreat to another, anxious to effect their escape into Macedonia, an asylum which they preferred to Syria, or to Sicily, where Sextus Pompeius had now raised the standard of liberty. They bent their steps towards Astura, a maritime residence of Marcus Cicero, borne in litters, from which they had the mournful satisfaction of conversing together as they proceeded. On the way they recollected that they had not with them money sufficient for their contemplated expedition. Quintus determined to return to Rome for the necessary supply, while the elder brother, whose danger was perhaps the most imminent, should prosecute his flight alone. A mournful separation ensued. Quintus reached the city, but was immediately recognised by the assassins, and slain together with his son, after an

affecting scene of mutual devotion. Each had claimed to be the first to die: the soldiers divided themselves into two parties, and slew both at the same moment.

"Meanwhile the surviving fugitive reached Astura, and there embarked. A favourable breeze wafted the vessel off the promontory of Circeii, and from thence the sailors were about to stand out to sea, when Cicero once more determined to land, and throw himself, as was supposed, on the clemency of Octavius. He proceeded some miles on the road to Rome; again he changed his mind, and retraced his steps to Circeii. There the night overtook him, and the hours of solitude and darkness increased his sleepless agitation. Some said that he now conceived a design of getting secretly into Octavius's dwelling, and slaying himself upon his hearthstone, 'to fasten upon him an avenging demon.' But from this design he was driven by the fear of tortures, and the recollection of Trebonius's cruel fate. With the dawn of day a gleam of hope once more visited the miserable sufferer. He besought his attendants to bear him once again to the sea-shore, and put him on board a bark. But adverse winds, or the distress of sea-sickness, or his own wavering resolution, induced him to return to land a second time, and he took up his abode for the night in his villa near Formiæ. In vain was he warned of the danger of these wretched delays. Utterly prostrated by anguish of mind and weariness of body, he only replied, 'Let me die, let me die in my father-land, which I have so often saved.' But his slaves now shut their ears to their master's moans, and taking him in their arms, replaced him in his litter, with which they hurried again towards the coast, through the thick woods which lay between. The bloodhounds were already on the scent. Scarcely had the house been quitted, when a band of soldiers, led by an officer named Popilius, a client whom Cicero's advocacy had saved from the penalty of parricide, approached and thundered at the closed doors. No one appeared to give them admittance, and when they burst them open, the servants of the house denied any knowledge of the fugitive's movements. There was a traitor, however, near at hand. A young man, who had been emancipated by Quintus and educated by Marcus Cicero, by name Philogonus, put the assassins on his track. Some of them followed in pursuit, while Popilius made a rapid circuit to occupy the outlet of the path through the woods. Cicero had not yet reached the open shore, when he perceived the pursuers gaining upon him. His party were more numerous than the enemy: they would have drawn their swords in their master's defence, but he forbade them; or, according to another account, they were deceived by a stratagem into the belief that they were attacked by superior numbers, and desisted from the attempt. Cicero now bade his slaves set down the litter, and leaning his chin on his left hand, his usual posture in meditation, he fixed his eyes steadily on his murderers, and offered his throat to the sword. The ruffians were shocked at the squalid unshorn visage of the great man whose blood they thirsted for. Many covered their faces with their hands, and their leader's nerves were so shaken, that he drew the blade three times across the victim's throat, like a saw, before he could sever the head from the body. With the head the murderer carried off the hands also; such was the command of Antonius: the thunder of the Philippics had issued from the one, but the other had inscribed them upon parchment more durable than stone or brass. They were carried to Rome, and set up in front of the rostra, to the amazement and horror of the people, who for so many years had been swayed through the whole compass of human passion by the expression of that countenance, and the majestic movement of those hands. Antonius openly exulted in the sight, and rewarded the assassins with profuse liberality. Fulvia, with all the littleness of female resentment, pierced the tongue with her needle, in double revenge for the denunciations it had uttered against both her husbands."

The closing scene of Cleopatra's life also deserves quotation:—

"Cleopatra had tasked her powers of fascination to the utmost, and she knew that they had failed. She penetrated the design of carrying her to Rome through the cold though courteous demeanour by which it was veiled, and she sternly resolved to frustrate it. From a son of Dolabella, who had conceived a romantic passion for her, she heard without surprise that even within three days she was to be conveyed away with her children, to adorn the conqueror's triumph. She formed her plan with secrecy and decision. She directed her attendants to make ready for the voyage, while she only desired permission to pour libations on the tomb of Antonius. Octavius, now secure of his victim, readily consented. The queen repaired with her female companions to the mausoleum. She gave orders for a banquet to be served, and in the meanwhile embraced the dead man's bier, and mingled her tears with the wine she poured upon it. She addressed her lord in terms of unabated affection, appealed to his conviction of her faith and love, and besought him, as one having power with the gods of his country, for her own gods, she said, had deserted her, not to suffer himself to be triumphed over in the person of a wife devoted to him, but to let her die upon his coffin and find her sepulchre in his tomb. Sentinels meanwhile kept guard outside; a man in peasant's clothes approached with a basket on his arm, which when they uncovered and found in it figs of unusual beauty, he pressed them to partake of them, and they allowed him to carry them in. Soon after the queen commanded all her attendants to leave her, except her two favourite women, Iras and Charmion, and at the same time she sent a sealed packet to be delivered to Octavius. It contained only a brief and passionate request to be buried with her lover. His first impulse was to rush to the spot and prevent the catastrophe it portended: but in the next moment the suspicion of a trick to excite his sensibility flashed across him, and he contented himself with sending persons to inquire. The messengers made all haste, but they arrived too late; the tragedy had been acted out, and the curtain was falling. Bursting into the tomb they beheld Cleopatra lying dead on a golden couch in royal attire. Of her two women, Iras was dying at her feet, and Charmion with failing strength was replacing the diadem on her mistress's brow. 'Is this well, Charmion?' exclaimed abruptly one of the intruders. 'It is well,' she replied, 'and worthy of the daughter of kings.' And with these words she too fell on her face and died.

"The manner of Cleopatra's death was never certainly known. It seems that there were no marks of violence on her person, nor did any spots break out upon it, such as usually betray the action of poison. But the experiments she was reported to have made on the bite of venomous reptiles were remembered: these were coupled with the story of the basket of figs, in which such means of destruction might easily be concealed. It was rumoured that Octavius employed the services of the Psylli, the poison-suckers of the desert, to restore his victim to life; and at last it came to be positively affirmed that her arms were found slightly punctured, as with the fangs of an asp. This at least was the account of the affair which Octavius himself allowed to be circulated. When the figure of Cleopatra was afterwards carried in his triumph, she was represented reclining on a couch with the asp clinging to either arm, and mortal sleep stealing slowly through every limb."

One of the most valuable portions of Mr. Merivale's present volume is his account of the means adopted by Augustus for the consolidation of his power, and the administration of the empire. The great secret of his policy was to keep the real government in his own hands, while maintaining apparently in their pristine vigour many of the offices and institutions of the republic. The succeeding emperors followed, to a great extent, his example, though Mr. Merivale goes too far when he says—

"Although there existed no substantial power which could counteract the mere will of the emperor himself, yet traditional observance and inbred respect for forms and usages, the old national habits of discipline, and the force of antique associations, all combined in practice to invest the senate and magistracies of Rome with a dignity to which the emperors themselves were wont obsequiously to bow. The constitution of Augustus, in which the senate was presumed to be the governing power of the state, may be said to have lasted to the death of Pertinax, in the year of the city 946 (A. D. 193). The military revolution by which that emperor was overthrown established the direct supremacy of the army for several succeeding generations. But during the long period of two hundred and twenty years, no emperor assumed the reins of government without at least commencing his career with an acknowledgment of the senate's paramount authority. Each despot in succession professed to be guided by the traditions and precedents of the republic."

Surely it is not true that the emperors "were wont to bow obsequiously to the dignity of the senate and magistracies of Rome." Even the best of the emperors regarded the senate as little more than an instrument of their government; while the worst of them made this illustrious body the special object of their tyranny and insults. Still it is a striking fact, that not even did a Caligula or a Domitian venture to disown publicly the authority of the senate, or to found their empire ostensibly upon the sword. The senate remained in theory the source of political power; and the authority of the emperor was nominally derived from the various republican offices which he held. It was of no mean importance thus to mask the nakedness of military despotism; for names and forms exercise a powerful influence over a nation, and men will often submit to the reality of a despotism, if it is only called by another name.

Clara Harrington. A Domestic Tale.
Colburn and Co.

THIS is an original work, evidently drawn from the writer's heart and mind, and developing the experiences of life, and the conflicts and emotions of the affections. It is a love-story in the truest sense of the word, and we may add, in one of the newest senses; for while the events are of ordinary occurrence, they are presented in an unusually attractive form by the intensity of the feelings that pervade them.

The character of Clara Harrington, the heroine, must be pronounced to be somewhat morbid; but the morbidity is of that active kind which constantly makes struggles for the attainment of strength, and goodness, and simplicity of circumstances, amidst all its excess of emotions, and its sufferings in the conflict of entangled events, of suspicions and wrongs. There is something deeply pathetic in the efforts of one, conscious of weakness, to become strong and attain self-command on the highest principles. The character of the hero, Mr. Merton, *alias* Lord Ashford, is one which we fear may be too commonly found in what is called high life. He is a nobleman and a man of honour, with a fine sophistical notion of duty, and there is nothing in his actions which would cause him to forfeit his character as a gentleman in the circles of rank and fashion; yet, at the same time, he does things which are virtually full of duplicity and dishonour, and in order to maintain his external position, he destroys the happiness of the woman who adores him,

and renders his own life one tormenting course of concealment and wretchedness. There is a stinging interest in the whole story, almost analogous to what we find in Rousseau and Godwin. It is of a totally different kind from theirs, but exercises a similar fascination over the reader.

We do not think it right to tell the plot of a work so ostensibly depending on its story; and we are, moreover, of opinion that no brief narration of the outline would convey any adequate idea of the way in which the scenes are filled up. For instance, there is a conversation in the first volume between Clara Harrington and her friend Leonora, on the subject of love. Two ladies thus employed do not promise any very novel attractions to the reader; but listen to them:—

"'Ah! is it so?' cried Clara, with a look of terror.

"'Listen to me. I have seen the beginning and the end of love in more than one instance.'

"'Good God, is it possible that love can end? No, never, not such love as mine.'

"'Already I see in the distance the breakers on which your happiness will be wrecked unless you take timely warning.'

"'Speak, Leonora, and tell me what it is you fear.'

"'My desire is to stop the progress of the evil before it is too late. If you go on much longer in your present course, the result will be fatal. Your sufferings will react on him, and his love will soon begin to change, and when once that has happened, all is over. A man's love runs out fast when once it begins to flow in that direction, a woman's is longer retained by her greater power of affection—the strongest element in a woman's love. I think that you have made a great mistake from the very commencement. You have fancied that a life of love is a life of pure ease and enjoyment, forgetting that there is nothing in the world without alloy, and that no state of life is without its serious duties. How great, then, and how serious must be the duties belonging to the highest state which a human being can be placed in—that of LOVE. It is not easy to love well. Easy, perhaps, to love deeply, vehemently, intensely, but not to love well. Before you can achieve that, you must uproot selfishness, and your heart must be the abode of faith, hope, and charity. You must derive enjoyment from the communication of it; the higher powers and excellencies of your nature must be called forth and developed in order to render you capable of giving happiness, and the heavenly fruit of this inward growth, is happiness. This is the true consecration of marriage on God's altar, and if God be absent from you, in the absence of this aim and feeling, no love can be pure, or lasting, or blessed. The true test of love is, that in deed and in truth you seek the happiness of him you love more than your own; that you could even renounce him, should that renunciation be required for his sake; and this feeling, which is the touchstone of true love, is also at once the perennial, the everlasting source of it, and the true happiness of it.'

This is very different from the usual novelist's love; it is the true martyr feeling. The 'happiness' is either very doubtful, or of a different kind. There is a painfully beautiful instance of this at the close of Chapter VI., where Clara, believing that she is dying, refrains from laying her head upon the breast of the beloved and faithless husband, lest she should injure his "position," and pretends scarcely to know him.

Amidst the throes of anguish in Clara, we often find some wise philosophy and the best counsel alternately offered in the person of her friend Leonora, and that lady's brother, Dr. Weston:—

"'Unhappiness is not merely to be mourned over,—it must be profited by. The unhappiness

which has sprung out of your position, shows you that it is a false one; that is the first lesson to be learnt. The next is to ascertain in what respect it is wrong, and then, if possible, to find a remedy. Your misfortune clearly is, that you have undertaken a task which you did not understand, and for which you were not prepared. Either you ought to have refused to marry him when he told you the conditions, or you ought to have resolved resolutely to go through with them without a murmur.

"And so I did resolve," cried Clara; "but how could I imagine the pain until I felt it?"

One of the subtleties in the working out of this story is, that while the very wisest advice is continually given to the heroine, to which moreover she listens with profound attention, and which she has a devout desire to put into practice, the moment an event occurs which strongly excites her feelings, all the excellent counsel goes for nothing. But sometimes there are exceptions to this, of a kind which we hold to be inconsistent and untrue to the character of Clara, which is too forcibly drawn at the outset for us to make any mistake about her afterwards.

There is a redundancy of dialogues in this novel, besides which, they are often prolonged by needless repetitions or minute details, as though the writer could not bear to leave so interesting a subject to the heroine.

The style of this novel is pure and uniform; too much so, indeed, for a work of the novel class. It is clear, steady, quite unadorned, and as level as a well-swept pavement; still, the reader finds it vibrate with emotion at every step. There are no touches of wit, and very few of humour, imagination, or play of fancy; on the contrary, the painfulness of the story is sought to be 'relieved' by dialogues on the display of the Creator's wisdom in the law of mortality; and, subsequently, on the contemplation of a future state—totally misplaced in such a work. However taken by surprise, the reader will find in these dialogues some of the deepest knowledge and the purest aspirations. There is also an excellent dissertation, in the form of a conversation, on painting. This seems to us extremely curious, when coupled with the fact that throughout the three volumes there is a marked absence of word-painting, colouring, figures of speech, graphic phrase, or epithet—in short, of all graphic description of external things, whether of forms, faces, dress, or local scenery. The few scenes visibly brought forth upon the stage are truthful suggestions of external life, but the whole force of delineation and development is reserved for the inner life of the affections, their struggles, and their sufferings.

Of the triumphs of these struggles we cannot speak. The writer has a cruel resolve in the enforcement of the intended moral lesson; cruel beyond all need. The hero and heroine have quite worn each other out, together with some of those most dear to them, all the best of life having been wasted by the former (Lord Ashford) in a vain effort to preserve his honourable worldly position at the cost of real honour, truth, and right feeling; till, finally, all impediments and difficulties being removed which prevented their union, instead of feeling any impulse to rush to each other's arms, as the reader naturally expects, they find themselves standing desolate in their mutual freedom, too wasted and feeble even to desire to repair the wreck of their affections. All is now in their own hands—except their first feelings. It is too late for happiness.

Altogether, the novel of 'Clara Harrington'

is a remarkable work. It is generally thought to be the production of a young writer. We have some doubts on this head.

A Faggot of French Sticks. By the Author of "Bubbles from the Brunnen of Nassau." Murray.

[Second Notice.]

READER, you have perhaps crossed Smithfield on a market morning. Or, if deterred by mire and horns from risking your clean boots and precious limbs by a passage through the monster nuisance, you at least have beheld, with pity and disgust, from the outskirts of the unsavoury area, the cudgelling, goading, kicking, tail-twisting, horn-breaking, and other tortures to which the luckless beasts there assembled are so mercilessly subjected. Some of the poor brutes you had heard driven past your house in a far western suburb during the 'small hours' of that morning. It strikes you as rather hard measure to the animals—and not very favourable to the meat—that, after a long journey along heavy roads, they should be wrenched, and thrashed, and poked into narrow pens and compact circles, there to stand exposed for hours to bad weather and ill usage; and you turn away with a shudder as you hear some of the foot-sore creatures lowing with pain, whilst the heavy stick descends with a dull cruel sound upon their striped and reeking flanks. That afternoon, homeward-bound to dinner, you pass the shop of the renowned Brisket, 'purveyor' to all manner of crowned heads and royal highnesses. A little drove of oxen and a respectable flock of sheep have just reached the entrance of the narrow paved yard leading to stable and slaughter-house. You recognise some of your Smithfield acquaintances, whom the fortune of sale has brought back thus far upon the way to the place whence they came. If they were fagged and foot-sore in the morning, they are certainly none the better now for their long drive through crowded streets. The drovers' arms are weary with wielding goad and cudgel; the voices of the shaggy dogs are almost extinct from much expostulation with laggards. The cattle look askance at the carcasses of their departed brethren; they smell blood, and recoil. Tykes and men make a combined effort, biting and beating, howling and hooting; and, by a last fierce charge, sheep and oxen are sent headlong down the yard. You see them again next day, pendent at Brisket's door, or spread in fragments upon his beautiful porcelain tiles; and you ask yourself whether the animals that yesterday were driven into a fever, and pounded into a jelly, could be in a very fit state for food when this morning they were slaughtered and cut up.

They manage these things better in Paris. Cross the Channel, if you doubt it, and visit the public slaughter-houses. Or, if you fear to be taken for a target by M. Buonaparte's unscrupulous marksmen, take up the book of his warm friend and admirer, Sir F. B. Head, turn to page 198 of the first volume, and read the very interesting chapter headed "Abattoir de Montmartre." But the ill-omened name we have just written—Buonaparte, not Head—induces a digression. Since our first review of his book was penned, Sir Francis has come forward, in the columns of a widely-circulated daily journal, as champion of the French President. As yet he has taken very little by his motion, and certainly his gratuitous advocacy of a rotten cause could

hardly have been worse timed than at the moment of his book's publication. In the book, many will find a pretext for taxing him with private motives and personal partiality in the support he last week volunteered to the revolutionary *razzias* of Napoleon's unworthy nephew. Standing in the garden of the Invalides, on the anniversary of the Emperor's death, Sir Francis saw the President approach, attended by a numerous staff. Many years previously, in England, he had been slightly acquainted with him, and, to his surprise, Louis Napoleon "was pleased to acknowledge him," as he stood hat in hand, but "without presuming to bow." Encouraged by the President's "apparent goodwill and kindness," Sir Francis "quietly slipped among his staff," and with the procession slowly marched on, "he hardly knew where." Subsequently to that day he had "repeated proofs" of the "goodwill and kindness," and accordingly we find him attending a levee at the Elysée, dining there, and, mounted on one of the Elysian chargers, accompanying the President to a review, where he is quite touched by the "unmilitary mildness of manner" with which Louis Napoleon speaks to a soldier, and bestows on him the much-prostituted ribbon of a once-glorious decoration. Finally, in his concluding chapter, Sir Francis passes a glowing eulogium on the French dictator, declaring himself "firmly of opinion that, under a mild exterior, with gentle manners and a benevolent heart, he is an honest, bold, high-minded statesman—whose object is to maintain the peace of Europe and the real glory and honour of France." Now, since this was the firm opinion of Sir F. B. Head, he was, of course, right to express it in his book, and perhaps he owed such expression to the man who had kindly received and hospitably entertained him, and of whom very few persons indeed have ever thought or said half so much that was good. But when, in the teeth of his hero's treachery and treason, on the morrow of one of the bloodiest and most unjustifiable usurpations that modern history records, he goes out of his path to reiterate his high opinion of its perpetrator, and to defend by sophisms deeds that admit not of vindication, then assuredly he lays himself open to the charge of blind partisanship. Thus will many argue. For our part, we fully acquit him of any conscious bias, and, indeed, are far from treating the thing so seriously. The author of 'Bubbles' has been long enough before the public to be pretty well known and understood. The well-meaning and loquacious old gentleman's turn for crotchets is as notorious as are his natural amiability and literary accomplishments. He has a talent for the discovery of mares' nests, and a propensity to run into extremes. The other day French invasion was his bugbear, and he frightened all the old women in the country by an alarmist volume, demonstrating, in the clearest manner, what very rough usage they might expect at the hands of the Frenchmen in red trousers, at whose early and probable advent he more than hinted. He has now mounted another hobby, which he is quite capable of riding, with characteristic tenacity, through dirt and danger, until loss of leather compels him to dismount, or the *ignis fatuus* of some fresh fancy decoys him into another swamp. *Vieux soldat, vieille bête*, is an irreverent French proverb, with which Sir Francis is doubtless familiar, but which it would be unjust to apply to so shrewd and ingenious a person as

he has repeatedly proved himself. And therefore do we, who appreciate his talents at quite their full value, regret that he should peril his reputation for sagacity and impartiality, by putting himself forward, at a most inopportune moment, in a very discreditable cause.

Quitting debateable ground, we gladly revert to subjects in whose treatment Sir Francis Head is more felicitous, and on which all may agree with him. When visiting the public charities and institutions of Paris, for instance, his remarks are practical and to the purpose, and he frequently throws out hints, which might be advantageously taken by those who have the regulation of such matters in England. Beyond hints he rarely goes, being, as his readers by this time know, more skilled to skim the surface than to sound the depths. His manner of placing before us the results of his observations is vivid and attractive. Catch him in the shambles, for instance,—where we left him, a little higher up—and he is in great force. The chapter opens with one of his humorous parallels:—

"About half-a-century ago," he says, "there lived in a country village in England a maid-servant, a pleasing-looking young woman, of such delicate sensibilities, that, to use her own expression, 'she couldn't abear to see a mouse killed.' She married the butcher. At about the same period, Napoleon, who cared no more for the effusion of human blood than the stormy petrel cares for the salt spray of the Atlantic ocean, determined, from similar sensibilities, to cleanse Paris from the blood of bullocks, sheep, pigs, and quadrupeds of all sorts, by suppressing every description of slaughter-house within the city, and by constructing in lieu thereof, beyond the walls, four great public *abattoirs*, besides smaller places of execution for pigs, and also for horses."

It were idle to flatter ourselves; we are not a humane nation to animals. An observer shall behold more cruelty to the brute creation in a day's perambulation of London and its suburbs, than in a week's wanderings through Paris. The Frenchman is habitually kind to his beast; if he be otherwise he is the exception to the rule. Amongst the lower orders of English, the exception, we fear and believe, is the kindness. The crowded intricacies of such a monster city as London are certainly not favourable to the humane and patient treatment of beasts of draught and burthen. A few 'Humane Society's' agents can do very little to enforce it; the powers of the police are extremely limited in that particular, and might perhaps be cautiously but beneficially extended. It is in Smithfield, and in the system of private slaughtering, that we must seek other great obstacles to the spread, amongst the lower classes in London and its vicinity, of humanity to animals. In the Parisian slaughter-houses, the duties of the inspector of police, attached to each one of those establishments, are, "to see that the whole interior of the *abattoir* is clean, and in a state of salubrity; that there are no disputes among the people employed; and that the animals are not beaten." Even to the knife they are led with gentleness, and their death is all but painless. Sir Francis Head entered one of the *bouveries* or stables, lofty well-ventilated buildings, in which, "on straw as clean as in the show-stables of a London horse-dealer," the cattle are kept till wanted. He went to look at a bullock that was about to be slaughtered:—

"It was a beautiful morning, and, although the sun was hot, the atmosphere, where I stood, felt quite refreshing. He was lying in a cell by him-

self, perfectly tranquil, on clean straw, and, with his fore-legs doubled under him, was chewing the cud. His great black nose, which almost touched the white litter, was wet and healthy; his eyes were bright; his tail quiet, for, as the air was cool, there was not even a fly to tease him.

"As we were gazing at each other, a butcher, carrying a short rope, followed by a boy holding in his hand a stick, in which I particularly observed there was no goad, walked up to him, and gently putting the noose over his horns, and then making him arise, he quietly conducted him to his doom. The poor creature walked slowly through the hot sunshine with perfect willingness, until he arrived at the threshold of the broad door of the slaughter-house, where, suddenly stopping, he leant backwards, and stretched out his head, evidently alarmed at the smell of blood. The butcher now slightly pulled at the rope. Without barking of dogs or hallooing of men, without the utterance of an imprecation or of a single word, four slight blows on the right hock with the boy's stick made him, after looking for a second or so fearfully to the right and left, hurriedly enter, after which he instantly appeared to become quite quiet. The rope from his head was now gently passed under his off-fore-leg, and, on its being tightened, a couple of men in wooden shoes, clattering towards him over the wet slippery pavement, by a sudden push on his near side tumbled him over. He was scarcely down when one blow of a mallet made him completely senseless, two others were given for precaution's sake, and a butcher then, forcing his knife into his broad chest, instantly withdrew it."

On first arrival at the *abattoir*, sheep and cattle are turned into two 'parks' or enclosures, where Sir Francis Head saw a number "lying under the shade of lilac and laburnum trees in blossom." Forty-eight melting-houses, forming part of the establishment, he found nearly full of pails of tallow, but, to his astonishment, there was no unpleasant smell, either there or in any other part of the premises. Water is everywhere abundant, and no blood or offal are to be seen. Diseased meat, instead of being transferred to the sausage-maker or to the poor man's butcher, is confiscated for the use of the beasts and birds of prey in the Jardin des Plantes. Putting all these details together, we obtain a picture somewhat different to that presented by Smithfield and its abominable purlicues, and by the private slaughter-houses of London. The sketch of the bullock reposing on his straw up to the moment when the knife enters his breast, is a striking contrast to the jaded, half-maddened aspect of the animal we lately saw driven down Brisket's yard. Yet the one picture is not truer than the other.

Although the French, in a political point of view, are the most restless and disorderly people in Europe, their disposition for order and system in minor social matters is extraordinary. A great lover of horses, Sir Francis Head took trouble to obtain admission to the stables of a large omnibus company, which owns fifteen hundred horses, distributed amongst six different establishments, much resembling cavalry barracks. There were three hundred in the stable Sir Francis visited. "In few stables in England," he says, "have I ever seen litter in a cleaner state, horses in better health, or in a greater state of enjoyment." Admirable ventilation, abundant rations, perfect cleanliness,—in how many omnibus stables in London are these to be found united? "You are too hot by three degrees," said the superintendent to a groom. The atmosphere was duly regulated by thermometer. The grooming was excellent; a smith's shop was attached to the pre-

mises; everything, down to the minutest detail, was reduced to system—nothing left to chance. This receptacle for the horses of threepenny omnibuses would bear comparison with a British dragoon stable. The military precision which characterises the French is here beautifully displayed, and assuredly its results are not more favourable to the horses than profitable to their owners. There is no purchasing of old 'screws,' to 'use up,' by cruel hard work, as the most advantageous way of extracting value from them. The horses are bought at the age of four or five years in Normandy, Belgium, or the Ardennes, and are never sold until they become useless, which, owing to the care taken of them, often occurs only at a very advanced age, after a life which Sir Francis Head describes as "a wholesome, healthy, and happy mixture of enjoyment and work." Looking merely to the pocket, mercy is the best policy to pursue towards animals, whether they toil in our service, or serve us for food. In the long run we are gainers by the care and attention bestowed upon them. A truth which, in the interest of the equine race, cannot be too strongly impressed upon the minds of English cab and omnibus proprietors. On another point, too, these gentry might take a lesson from their Parisian brethren, and that is in respect of honesty and civility. In Paris the blackguard cab nuisance could not exist a week. Here, ever since last spring—and, at intervals, for many years before—the press and the public have been inveighing against the insolence and extortion of cab-drivers. As yet, although there may be some slight prospect of improvement, nobody is much the better for the outcry. The cabmen, to speak professionally, have got the whip-hand both of their customers and of the newspapers. Repeated revolutions have, it is generally considered, impaired the politeness for which Frenchmen were formerly remarkable. Sir Francis Head, however, was repeatedly struck by the courtesy he met with—often in places and from persons from whom his English experience would hardly have induced him to expect it. Having driven to the Barrier of Charenton in a cab, he paid the driver elevenpence, the fixed price of the *course* or journey, and added, instead of the customary two sous, three sous, as a gratification for himself. "He expressed himself exceedingly grateful; and I thought how very little gratitude, friendship, or good-fellowship one could buy in London for three-halfpence." Very little, indeed, we fear, especially if the seller were a cab-driver.

The chief fault of Sir Francis Head's book, which unquestionably is very pleasant reading, is its length. Nine hundred pages—pretty closely printed—are surely too much on a subject that is already familiar to so many. They might have been reduced one-third with advantage to book, reader, and author's reputation. Sir Francis should not make an abuse of the fluency and facility of his pen, nor suffer it to run after each whim and conceit, however trivial, that flits across his fancy. He should use a sieve, and get rid of some of his chaff; the residue would be all the more valuable. It is not a reason, because he finds himself well liked by the public, that he should not aspire, by a little more painstaking, to be better liked still. The spirit and freshness of whatever he writes are, however, undeniable; and if he sometimes lays himself open to a charge of having fewer ideas than words at his command, still

—so pleasantly are those words spoken—it seldom occurs to his reader to prefer the accusation.

Magnetoid Currents, their Forces and Directions, &c. By J. O. N. Rutter, F.R.A.S. John W. Parker and Son.

THERE is an amazing quantity of bad science floating in society, the result chiefly of pretence and imperfect education. The pamphlet before us is a striking example. At first we thought of passing it over; but finding that it is attracting some attention, and working mischief amongst those who receive such seemingly honest statements as truths, without examining for themselves, we think it a duty to show the absurdity to which empiricism may lead.

There is an old trick of suspending a shilling by a thread, and causing it to pendulate within a glass, so as to strike its sides, the thread being held between the finger and thumb. The author of this pamphlet has exalted this (a trick upon children, to warn them to bed) into magnetoid currents. Mr. Rutter devises an instrument which he calls a magnetoscope, consisting of an upright rod, having a ball at the top, from which proceeds a slight horizontal bar, and from the end of which is suspended a thread, having a knob of sealing-wax at its lower extremity. The ball of the instrument is to be grasped with the thumb and finger, and it is said, in most cases, that the thread will pendulate in a given direction, but that, supposing the ball to be held by a male, and his hand to be touched by a female, the vibrations change, and become transverse to the original direction. Again, every variety of substance, even the infinitesimal doses of the homœopathist, being placed in the hand, affects these undulations, sometimes accelerating them, and in other cases retarding and stopping them. Such are these very surprising experiments! We will not deny that the string and wax may have pendulated; we can make it do so with the magnetoscope at will. Indeed let any person grasp, as above described, a ball, and they will find that, after a short period, the tremor of the pulsation in the thumb communicates a vibratory action to the horizontal bar; the vibrations are increased in virtue of its length, and hence the pendulum moves.

Mr. Rutter's notions are supported at the end of the pamphlet in a very florid letter by Dr. King, who betrays his ignorance of the subject on which he writes in the following sentence: "When Volta first saw the dead frog leap from the table by its contact with two metals."—It is well known to the merest tyro that Galvani was the physician who first noted this phenomenon, the true cause of which was not developed until Volta constructed his pile, ten years afterwards.

We believe the gentlemen we have named are worthy of all respect, but starting with a fixed idea that vital force is dependent upon some form of electricity—an idea refuted by every accurate examination of the subject—they bend each real or imagined result to this view. Every step of Mr. Rutter's investigation is opposed to well-ascertained laws. Let us caution him to study purely physical phenomena by the light of inductive science, before he attempts to deal with agencies which come not within the legitimate range of the philosopher's search. Dr. King speaks of "the bitterness of controversy." He mistakes credulity for a love of truth. "Receive

no fact upon mere authority," is necessarily the text of the true philosopher; "Try all things, and lay hold only of that which is good," is his rule; in virtue of which these 'Magnetoid Currents' must be rejected.

Spiritual Alchemy; or, Trials turned to Gold.

By the author of 'Hearts in Mortmain,' &c. Bentley.

As the writer, notwithstanding the striking success of 'Hearts in Mortmain,' persists in wearing the anonymous, we are too gallant to raise the veil. Her present work, illustrative of the purifying effect upon the heart and character of the sufferings incident to humanity, betrays great power—at times, however, sadly misapplied. The story is soon told.

Two brothers, Charles and Baldwin Carew, become attached to two sisters, Katherine and Cecilia Melburn, with whom they had been partly brought up. Charles is a young man of eager and passionate longings—a mixture of Byron, Shelley, and Carlyle—speaking in 'hoarse whispers,' and calling life 'a great sham.' He publishes a poem, which a hard-hearted critic mercilessly condemns, and is rejected by Katherine, who declares that "she will never marry a man that is not religious." Baldwin is represented as an utter worldling in character, whom a 'dish of cauliflowers' will put out of humour for a week. In due course he weds the simple-hearted Cecilia, and not long after their entrance upon the gaieties of the London season, he renews his acquaintance with Passiflora St. George, an enthusiastic high-spirited young lady, with whom he had flirted at the lakes. Her, too, Charles sees and admires; and irritated by Katherine's coldness, as well as flattered by Passiflora's ardent admiration of his early poem, he proposes and is accepted. Baldwin neglects his wife for the same fascinating young lady, who, in her innocence of heart, suspects no evil in his admiration! At length he declares his unlawful passion in the hearing of his wife, who is struck to the heart by the awful discovery. She never recovers her reason, and her death is told with a simple pathos that will bring tears to the eyes of many a reader. Passiflora and Charles are meanwhile alienated from each other by an acknowledgment of his still uneffaced attachment to Katherine. After a terrific—we might fairly call it a fiendish, burst of passion, the violent girl is thrown on a sick bed, which she leaves an altered and a better woman, eventually to become the loving wife of a truly Christian gentleman, one of Katherine's rejected suitors. But Baldwin, who has fled abroad, too weak to bear or to face the consequences of his guilt, resolves to return, and while on the road is crushed by a railway train. Charles, whom this dreadful catastrophe quite overwhelms, seeks relief in foreign travel; and after a lengthened stay in Italy and Germany, he takes refuge in the backwoods of America, where his spiritual purification is completed. In a 'noble poem' he recants the infidelity of his earlier work, and acknowledges the only real source of happiness and truth. Returning to England, he again meets Katherine, and of course marries her.

Although the interest of the tale centres in the beautiful and truthful Katherine, there are other characters worthy of especial notice; such are Mrs. Carew and the bustling Aunt Barbara. The little touches of scenery scattered through the work are those of an artist;

but our authoress is not equally skilful in depicting or analysing the finer operations of the mind—at least, of the mind masculine, for we readily acknowledge her acute perception of the intricacies of the minds of her own sex. But to have written a pleasing tale, illustrative of an important doctrine of Christian practice, in a popular tone and free from cant, is a distinction which few have so deservedly earned as the writer of 'Spiritual Alchemy.'

The True Legend of St. Dunstan and the Devil. By Edward G. Flight. With Illustrations by George Cruikshank. Bogue.

THE orthodox legend about "Saint Dunstan, his combatte with ye Divelle," is known to all the world. Ecclesiastical historians have recorded how frequent were the appearances of the Devil to St. Dunstan, not only when engaged in his religious duties, but when "employed in those researches which entitle him to rank as high in the Records of Science as in the Annals of the Church and of the State."—*Acta Sanctorum, Vita S. Dunstani*. The visits at length came to be troublesome; and though they could be tolerated in the oratory, they could no longer be borne in the laboratory. Meekness was not one of the virtues of the British saint; and his visitor arriving in the middle of some metallurgic process (were bad coins known in those days?) Dunstan laid hold of his nose with the red hot pincers, causing such a dancing and bellowing, that he was thenceforth no more disturbed in his scientific pursuits. Such is the story as narrated in those venerable writings of the Church, the authority of which, according to Father Newman, is the same as that of the sacred scriptures. But some consider that liberty of private judgment is allowable concerning all post-canonical miracles and legends. Mr. Flight and Mr. George Cruikshank are among these free-thinkers; and they give a different version of the story. We have read the legend before, but in its present form, and with the clever illustrations and philosophical postscript, it has the charm of novelty. According to this account, St. Dunstan did not take his visitor by the nose, but seizing one of his legs, rivetted a hot horse-shoe on his cloven foot, which was afterwards only taken off on his signing a promise never to enter a place where the instrument of his torture was seen. Hence the origin of horse-shoes being nailed up on doors as charms against witchcraft. The story would have been more natural without the deed of promise, truth not being one of the Satanic attributes. The recalling of his punishment by the sight of the shoe would be sufficient to account for its effect. Indeed, the alleged document is suspected to be spurious; and a high legal authority having been consulted, gives the following opinion, which is in the postscript:—

"The absence of all legal consideration—that is to say, valuable consideration, such as money, or money's worth, or good consideration, such as natural love or affection—would render the deed void, or voidable, as a mere *nudum pactum*. (See Plowden.) Moreover, an objection arises, from there being no *Anno Domini* (Year Book, Temp. Ric. III.), and no *Anno Regni* (Croke Eliz.), and no condition in *pernam* (Lib. Ass.). Now, if the original deed had been thus defective, the covenanting party is too good a lawyer not to have set it aside."

The author thinks, however, that the whole matter is set beyond dispute, by the arms of the Dunstan family, a copy of which forms

the tail-piece of the legend, with this description:—

"Azure, on a chevron gules, between three harps, a horse-shoe supported by two pairs of pincers, proper. Crest.—An arm embowed, couped at the shoulder, the hand grasping a hammer, all proper. Motto.—SARUED HYM RICHTE!"

We still, however, have doubts, because we do not find these Dunstan arms in the last and best book on heraldry—"The Pursuivant of Arms," the acute and learned author of which would not have omitted so important an historical fact had he deemed it worthy of credence. Whatever be thought of the legend, the illustrations by George Cruikshank are capital. We almost hear the sound, in one of the pictures, of the cottager hammering up the horse-shoe over the door, while the children are laughing below, and the cat howling on the roof. We only add, that while some may object to the levity of such a book, we take it as conveying severe satire upon errors too foolish to admit of graver argument.

NOTICES.

Lyra Christiana. By the Rev. Robert Montgomery, M.A. Bell.

FEW authors have done themselves less justice, or given their works less chance of an enduring popularity, than Robert Montgomery. Themes such as he has chosen might each have cost the study and labour of a lifetime; whereas in voluminous fluent verse he has poured forth long extemporaneous poems on a hero so noble as 'Luther,' and on a subject so vast as the 'Omnipresence of the Deity.' To think of improvising an epic is a vain imagination, and no wonder, therefore, that the contrast seems great between the design of these poems and the execution of them. By this hasty writing he also lays himself open to a severity of criticism, through which his whole writings come to be viewed with the disfavour excited by the satirical presentation of certain passages and extracts. A writer who happens to have, through popularity as a preacher, a large circle ready to read and praise whatever he writes, is apt to be tempted to publish without due labour and time being bestowed on his works. That Mr. Montgomery can write well, and has true poetic feeling, many passages through his volumes testify. Here is one, for instance:—

"THE IMMORTALITY OF BOOKS."

"And since that moment, have not Books become
Our silent Prophets, intellectual Kings,
And Hierarchs of human thought
To vice, or virtue? Are they not like Shrines
For truth?—Cathedrals, where a chaste Heart
Can worship, or in tranquil hours retreat
To meet the Spirit of the olden time?
For there the drama of the world abides
Yet in full play, immortally perform'd!
Still ride the fleets o'er Actium's foughten waves
Before us; patriots fight, and tyrants fall;
Sparta and Corinth, and the famous Isles
That fought for freedom, till their blood ran o'er
With brave contention, yet convene, and clash
Their forces; still the Roman eagle flies
In full-wing'd triumph o'er the subject world;
Cæsar and Pompey yet the earth alarm,
Or drag their chariot with the captive East;
Battles are raging, Kingdoms lost, or won,
Yes, all the Genius of gone time is there
In books articulate,—whose breath is mind."

The '*Lyra Christiana*' consists of extracts selected by the author from all his published works, with a few original pieces. Of some of the entire poems we may afterwards speak, meanwhile giving notice of this little volume as a neat and suitable gift-book, or pocket companion for those who are admirers of Mr. Robert Montgomery's poetry.

Events to be Remembered in the History of England.

By Charles Selby. Darton and Co.

THE plan of this little manual of English history is original and excellent. In chronological order, from the days of the Druids down to the accession of Victoria, all the leading historical events are described, together with reviews of the manners,

domestic habits, occupations, and amusements of the people, not in a consecutive narrative, but by means of separate extracts from a great variety of authors. Thus the reign of Charles II. is made up of extracts from 'Pepys' Diary,' 'Evelyn's Diary,' 'Lingard's History,' 'Memoirs by Count Grammont,' 'Macaulay's England,' 'The Kings of England,' and other works of reputation. At the end of each reign 'a Chronicle' gives a short connected view of the whole period, and refers to any matter of importance not included in the extracts. From ballads and books of fiction illustrations are sometimes given, and some of these authorities, as Sir Walter Scott's novels, are no unimportant adjuncts to professed history. Mr. Selby modestly likens his book to an outline map, which gives but the great landmarks, leaving the intervening country to be filled up by the research of the student. All manuals of history are of this skeleton kind, and the peculiar advantage of the present work is, that it gives the views of a number of authorities, from which there results both a more impartial and entertaining account than would be furnished by a condensed abstract of any single historian. The compilation has been made with great care, and the selection generally with judgment. A few faults or omissions we might point out, but they are such as can easily be remedied in subsequent editions. For instance, in the history of Cromwell, it is strange that no extract appears from the life by Carlyle, the only biographer who has done him justice. Some account of the rise of the manufactures to which England owes so much of her greatness would have been desirable. Let Mr. Selby continue to note passages for selection; the idea of his book is excellent, and a little more labour bestowed upon it would make it one of the best volumes in the whole list of educational manuals. It is also a most interesting and instructive book for the general reader.

A Treatise on the Circumstances which Determine the Rate of Wages and the Condition of the Working Classes. By J. R. McCulloch. Longman & Co.

ANY work, either on statistical or social subjects, from Mr. McCulloch is worthy of notice, and in this little volume he has treated with his usual ability and judgment one of the most important of economic problems. The various circumstances which determine the rate of wages, and the general welfare of the labouring classes, are traced and exhibited. Among the subjects discussed in the several chapters are, The Varieties of Labour, Wages and Capital, Capital and Population, Influences of Rate of Wages on State of the Labourer, Combinations among Workmen, Taxation, Savings' Banks, Poor Laws, Education. It is well to have, in a condensed and comprehensive form, the views on such subjects of one who stands so high in the science of political economy, and the book will be read with advantage by many intelligent workmen, as well as by their employers, and those who take interest in the welfare of the labouring classes. It is just such a treatise as the Society for Diffusing Useful Knowledge in its vigorous days would have delighted to issue.

Felix. Roman von Robert Prutz. Leipzig: Brockhaus. Williams and Norgate.

THIS is a tale of German literary and political life in the Revolution of 1848. Dr. Prutz is a fit and proper person to write on such a subject, for his life was passed among the small literary coteries of the continental capitals, while in 1848, if not actually a member of the Frankfort parliament, he had ample opportunity of watching the strange proceedings of amateur debaters and pamphleteers. With all these qualifications, we cannot say that he has succeeded in making his book either interesting or instructive. His Felix is a young poet and leader-writer, who charms all the ladies, and who, at the same time, most sincerely and innocently flirts with a couple of them. He speaks in a political club, attracts the attention of the minister of the day, is dunned by his tailor, and called upon by one of the minister's councillors, engaged in negotiations with the government for the establishment of a conservative gazette, which negotiations, after all, lead to nothing. He is made love to by the minister's

sister, who "despises all men." He borrows money from the Jews, is arrested on a charge of forgery, and betrayed by Florentin, a young cavalier, whom he mistakes for his friend, and this Florentin, the ideal of Dr. Prutz's Mephistopheles, marries the minister's sister, and leaves Felix freed from prison, by that *Deus ex machina*, an uncle to his humbler love, Käthchen, with a professorship on the Rhine. In all this there is nothing new, and very little that is true. There are some pot-house scenes, which the author evidently treats *con amore*—fair but rather tedious specimens of that "Kneipen-leben" to which our Teutonic brethren of the quill are so much addicted. The most singular feature in the book is the literary mania, the morbid hole-and-corner literature, of which it contains unmistakable evidence. Almost all the persons to whom we are introduced commit themselves on paper. They all publish with great secrecy, and reveal the mystery to a select circle of friends.

SUMMARY.

'READING for the Rail' now forms no small portion of our regular supply of literature. We are amused at the skill and tact with which selections are made to suit the varied taste of the travelling 'legion.' Murray's list of 'Books suited for Railway Readers' now presents *The Turf and The Road*, by Nimrod. One of the last and best volumes in the same series is the edition of *Æsop's Fables* by the Rev. T. James. In 1848, in large and beautifully illustrated form, Mr. James's book was first published. It now appears in this cheap series, excellently printed, and with upwards of a hundred woodcuts, from designs by John Tenniel. A happier selection could not have been made for a railway book—one which is suited alike for old and young, and for the fireside as well as the journey.

In a little volume, entitled *Rural Economy*, the most practically useful articles are reprinted from the various volumes of the *Family Economist*. On all matters relating to cottage-farming, gardening, and other rural occupations, as well as on domestic management, this will be found a magazine of valuable information.

M. J. N. Vlieland, author of many useful school-books, publishes a treatise on the German language, *Theory and Practice*, containing a practical grammar, with conversational exercises, and an introduction to the art of translation. The work is chiefly adapted from Meidinger's *Grammaire Allemande Pratique*, while M. Vlieland's long experience, as Professor at King Edward's School, Norwich, enables him to make the book suitable for the instruction of English boys in the German language. Another useful and valuable school-book, by Professor Merlet, of University College, London, *The Dictionary of Difficulties*, has reached a third edition. Full explanations are given of all the grammatical difficulties, and the peculiar idioms or terms of the French language. The synonyms are concisely explained, and the etymological and other exercises furnish materials for procuring as correct a knowledge of the language as a foreigner can hope to possess by the study of books.

In a tale, called *Julamerk*, by Mrs. J. B. Webb, the habits, manners, and creed of the Nestorian Christians in Asiatic Turkey, are described and illustrated. These ancient people have maintained a separate existence since the early ages of Christianity. English and American missionaries have recently been settled amongst them, and have given reports of their condition. The last account of them known to general literature is in 'Layard's Nineveh,' vol. i. p. 188, where he describes his visit to the scene of a horrible massacre of the Nestorian Christians by the Koord Mahometan fanatics under Beder Khan Bey.

Mr. James G. Mial has collected a number of interesting historical facts bearing upon civil and religious freedom in England. The labours and sufferings of those in former times, through whom we now enjoy light and liberty, are graphically narrated in *The Footsteps of our Forefathers, what they suffered and what they sought*. Many wood-

cuts adorn the volume, of such scenes as Wicliffe's Church, Hampden's Manor-House, Cromwell's Birth-place, the Covenanters' Prison. Making allowance for the anti-church feeling, Mr. Miall's book is pervaded by the true spirit of English freedom. In a little tale, called *The Hall of Chavenlay*, a very different account is given of some of the same scenes. The story is one of the time of the civil wars, and the writer takes up the common-place and vulgar idea, that all the Parliamentary party were knaves or hypocrites, and all the Royalists heroes and good Christians. We advise the author to read Mr. Miall's book, and perhaps, between that and his own, he might approach nearer the truth.

Some very laborious compiler has collected and presented, under the title of *Welsh Sketches*, a great store of information on Welsh history and customs, and especially on the ecclesiastical affairs of the Principality. His account only reaches to the end of the 12th century. We have some doubts as to the authenticity of many of the early records, but Cymric authorities are copiously cited.

Of miscellaneous publications—which it will be sufficient to name—there is a reprint, by Pickering, of *Bishop Hall's Meditations and Vows*; a story for children, '*The Weaver of Quellbrun*,' translated from the German of Dr. Barth, by Mr. Ryland, the English editor of Neander's works; a *Lecture on the Civilizing Influence of Christianity*, by the Rev. W. Shepherd, showing the influence of religion on national laws, habits, and morals;—a *Discourse on Education and Literature*, delivered at the opening of Queen's College, Cork, this winter session, by Raymond de Véricour, Professor of modern languages;—*History of John Wesley's Coat*—a clumsy and coarse imitation of Swift, by some disaffected Wesleyan methodist;—*A Statistical Survey of the Corn Trade, from 1697 to 1851 inclusive*, showing, in tabular view, the imports, exports, prices, duties, and other facts on the corn trade, compiled by T. J. Brown, Assistant Secretary to the Statistical Society of London. We ought also last week to have mentioned *The Month*, by Albert Smith, for December, as being good, both in the letter-press and John Leech's illustrations. The Boa Constrictor—the Sixpenny Cabs—the Submarine Telegraph, Bloomerism, and other passing events, give themes for fun or satire.

The English admirers of Humboldt's '*Kosmos*' will be glad to learn that an important addition has been made to the commentaries on that great work, by Herr Brönne's '*Collection of Maps for the Kosmos*.' The first series, containing six plates, has just been published by Kraiss and Hoffmann, at Stuttgart. These six plates are to be followed by thirty-six others, and contain the planetary, solar, and lunar systems, the plain globes, and the body of the earth, and the elevations of its surface, with a variety of diagrams, and a set of explanatory notes.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

Aide Memoir to Military Sciences, Vol. 3, Part 2, 20s.
 Alice Learmont, 12mo, cloth, 5s.
 Anderson's (Hon. Mrs.) The Three Paths, 2 vols. cl., 12s.
 Aunt Jane's Verses, by Mrs. T. D. Crewdson, cloth, 3s. 6d.
 Banking Almanack and Directory, 1852, 8vo, cloth, 5s.
 Campbell's Poetical Works, 1 vol. 8vo, new edition, 16s.
 Challice's (Dr. J.) Medical Advice to Mothers, 12mo, 1s.
 Clissold's Spiritual Exposition of Apocalypse, 4 vols. £2 2s.
 Cottager's Monthly Visitor, 1851, boards, 4s., hlf. bd. 4s. 6d.
 Dante, Life and times of, by Count Balbo, 2 vols. cloth, 21s.
 East India Register, 1852, 12mo, 10s. (bound, 11s. 6d.)
 Easy Lessons, cloth, new edition, 2s. (coloured, 3s. 6d.)
 Edward's (Jonathan) Charity and its Fruits, cloth, 7s. 6d.
 Family Manual and Servant's Guide, 12mo, cloth, 3s.
 — Sunday Book, vol. 2, 12mo, cloth, 1s. 6d.
 Formby's Young Singer's Book of Songs, 6s. (gilt, 7s. 6d.)
 Foster's (B.) Christmas with the Poets, new edition, 25s.
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 Holy Thoughts; or, Treasury of True Riches, 6th ed., 1s. 6d.
 Home and its Pleasures, by Mrs. Myrtle, 3s. 6d., (col., 6s.)
 Introduction to Aid in Parsing the English Language, 1s. 6d.
 Johnson's Cottage Gardener's Dictionary, post 8vo, 8s. 6d.
 Journal of the Bishop of Colombo, 12mo, cloth, 2s.
 Kindness and Cruelty, from the German, 1s.
 Kiss for a Blow, illustrated, 12mo, cloth, 4s. 6d.
 Kitto's (J.) History of Palestine, post 8vo, 6s. (gilt, 6s. 6d.)
 Lee's, (J.) Laws of Shipping and Insurance, 5th ed., 7s. 6d.

Literary Fables, from the Spanish of Yriarte, cloth, 5s.
 Margaret Cecil; or, I can, because I Ought, cloth, 5s.
 Mamma's Lessons, new edit., 2s. 6d. (coloured, 3s. 6d.)
 Medwin's (Rev. T. R.) Sermons, 12mo, cloth, 5s.
 Monthly Packet of Evening Readings, vols. 1 & 2, each 3s. 6d.
 Moore's (T.) Popular History of British Ferns, 10s. 6d.
 Morris's Angels' Voices; or, Words of Council, 2s. 6d.
 Nicolay's Manual of Geographical Science, Part 1, 10s. 6d.
 Nicoll's (R.) Poems and Lyrics, 12mo, cloth, 3s. 6d.
 Oate's Tables of Sterling Exchange, half-bound, 18s.
 Palmoni, an Essay, 8vo, cloth, 25s.
 Pleasant Pages, vol. 3, 12mo, cloth, 3s. 6d.
 Poetic Companion, vol. 1, post 8vo, cloth, 3s. 6d.
 Preacher, illustrated by Owen Jones, imp. 8vo, cloth, 21s.
 Prince Louis Napoleon's Life, &c., post 8vo, cloth, 5s.
 Public Good, vol. 2, post 8vo, 2s. 6d.
 Remembrances of Great Exhibition, 8s. 6d. (colrd., 14s. 6d.)
 Reminiscences of Great Exhibition, 13. (coloured, 2s.)
 Revenge, a Novel, by G. P. R. James, 3 vols. £1 11s. 6d.
 Romance of Adventure, 12mo, cloth, 3s. 6d.
 Ross's (G.) Leading Cases in Law of Scotland, £1 11s. 6d.
 School of Husbands, by Lady B. Lytton, 3 vols. £1 11s. 6d.
 Searchings of the Heart, third edition, 12mo, cloth, 2s. 6d.
 Sortain's Hildebrand, third edition, 12mo, cloth, 5s.
 Traveller's Library, No. 13.—Addison and Walpole, 1s.
 — Warren Hastings and Clive, 2s. 6d.
 — Chatham, Ranke, and Gladstone, 2s. 6d.
 Treave's Sermons, 12mo, cloth, 6s.
 To those about to Marry. Oblong, 2s. 6d. (coloured, 5s.)
 Urwick's (W.) The Triple Crown, 12mo, cloth, 5s.
 Village Queen, by Thomas Miller, 4to, cloth, 14s.
 Williams' (Rev. P.) The Apocalypse, 12mo, cloth, 8s. 6d.
 Wright's Biographia Literaria, 2 vols. 8vo, 12s.
 Wyatt's Industrial Arts, Part 6, 7s. 6d.
 Young Traveller's Journal, 12mo, cloth, 6s.

OUR NATIONAL MUSEUMS.

Dec. 15th.

YOUR correspondent, F. R. S. (*ante*, p. 846,) in his zeal for the reform of our National Museums, has compared and contrasted establishments, the objects and arrangements of which are wholly dissimilar. He writes as if there were a rivalry between the British Museum and Kew on the one hand, and the same great institution and Museum of Practical Geology on the other. The proposed and partly completed museum at Kew is supplementary to and illustrative of the living contents of the greatest botanical garden in the world. The collections of fossils in the Jermyn-street Museum are displayed as evidences and illustrations of the geology of the British Islands, especially as determined by the Geological Survey, of which the Museum of Practical Geology is the headquarters. The great geological map now in progress, and in part published, has so many important economic bearings, that as much as possible of the evidence upon which its colouring has been founded should be consultable by the public; and the collection of organic remains formed during the course of the field-work of the geological surveyors, constitutes an essential link in the chain of that evidence. M. Deshayes, whose opinion on these matters is entitled to the highest respect, seems surprised that the collections of fossils in London should be arranged by preference on a stratigraphical plan. In the Museum of Practical Geology no other arrangement could have been adopted without defeating the purposes for which the collection of them is designed. F. R. S. objects to the lectures delivered in connexion with that Museum, and indeed to the union of a School of Mines with it. He would confine the objects of the establishment to what he so condemns when writing of the early state of the British Museum—to the mere display of specimens, as curiosities; for as such and such only would they be, except to scientific adepts, unless associated with some system of instruction. To limit the teaching of a School of Mines to mining and metallurgy would be absurd, if a scientific mining education, developed in all its elements, is to be provided, as proposed by Government and demanded by the mining interests. Geology, palæontology, chemistry, and mechanics, cannot be dispensed with. Natural history is taught there, as essential to an accurate study of organic remains, and to an understanding of the principles of geology. F. R. S. objects to there being two public cabinets of organic remains in London. He, moreover, objects to the metallurgical and ceramic illustrations of the application of mineral substances to the Arts, displayed in the Jermyn-street Museum. Take away the fossil collections and the objects in question, and

have no School of Mines, and then there would be no Museum of Practical Geology. Yet in the same breath he admits that there is ample scope for such an institution, provided its objects be "properly carried out." His eye is offended by earthen-ware and metallic castings. He would have iron in the shape of iron, and not cast into the form of a statue. Yet it is by such ornamental applications of it that we can best test the qualities of the casting. To show how the metal may be effectively employed to display the capabilities of mineral substances, are surely aims of high import to the manufacturer. For him and for the artisan such a museum is full of interest, and teeming with instruction. That the illustrations of labour which it contains are as much as possible combined with art and ornament, is surely a merit and not a defect. To show that elegance of design is perfectly compatible with usefulness of purpose and finish of workmanship, has evidently been the aim of the director of the Museum of Practical Geology. Few persons in these days will find fault with a scheme so likely to be of service to our manufacturing interests.

It is really too bad to poke at the ghost of poor Sir Hans Sloane because its mortal antitype amassed the collection of curiosities and books that became the seed which germinated into the greatest museum in the world. All small beginnings might be ridiculed in like manner. Yet out of small beginnings great works spring; and if the British Parliament had not purchased Sir Hans Sloane's cabinet for the nation, even though in doing so they acted more by a prophetic instinct than by any wise foresight, the British Museum, in all probability, would not have been what it now is. Being what it is, however, we agree with F. R. S. in thinking that the time is come when the government of it should be reconstructed. The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Chancellor, and the Speaker, have quite enough to do without being burthened with duties which, however conscientiously they may endeavour to perform them, are not, at least so far as the natural history department is concerned, such as their previous training or acquired knowledge qualifies them for conducting. At present, fortunately, we have an Archbishop who honours and understands the bearings of natural history science; but we doubt much whether his legal and parliamentary colleagues could state on examination wherein lies the difference between a cow and a cabbage, or why a saurian is classed among the reptiles. The hereditary trustees, holding office on the strength of the good old English doctrine, that wisdom to govern is like pointing among canines—a quality transmitted through breed—do not trouble themselves much about museum affairs. Their selected or elected colleagues are mostly chosen, like the fellows of a certain college, out of the 'well-born and moderately learned.' Whilst one half the museum is devoted to the illustration of the natural history sciences, there is not a man, with one honourable exception, who possibly owes his place as much to his rank as to his unquestionable scientific distinction, conversant with those sciences in the long roll of its governors.

The natural history collections in the Museum, including those of organic remains, are now grown to such an extent that surely some re-adjustment of the management of them is required. To make the fossil collections there thoroughly useful, they should be classified along with the recent, or, at least, arranged in exact concordance. Were all the vertebrata, recent and fossil, placed under one chief; the vast assemblage of articulates under another; the mollusca and radiata under a third; the minerals, a magnificent collection and one which requires a peculiar knowledge not likely to be combined with that of any other natural history science, under a fourth; the heads of each being men of high scientific standing and unquestionable practical knowledge in their respective walks, these gentlemen, in conjunction with the illustrious keeper of the Botanical department, might form a council or senate of management, to act in conjunction and on an equality with the trustees. Such posts, properly filled and properly remunerated, would

be an honour to the nation, as well as to the great institution, to the staff of which they belonged. Other departments might be similarly arranged with equal advantage to the Museum and to the public.

B.B.

VERTEBRATE AIR-BREATHING LIFE IN THE OLD RED SANDSTONE.

OUR readers may recollect that the geological world was startled by the announcement, in the 'Elgin Courier,' of October 10th, of the discovery of a fossil reptile in the 'old red,' at Spynie, near Elgin. The specimen has been submitted to the examination of Professor Owen, from whom we have received the following notice of its nature and affinities.

Royal Coll. of Surgeons, Dec. 15th.

Mr. Duff, the proprietor of the very remarkable fossil recently discovered in a sandstone of the Devonian system of rocks at Elgin, transmitted me a drawing of it, with the request that I would undertake its examination, to which, having gladly acceded, the specimen was brought to me by a friend of Mr. Duff's. It is the impression, in two pieces of a grey variety of the old red sandstone, of a long and slender four-footed vertebrate animal, four inches and a half in length, clearly belonging, by the form, proportions, and positions of the scapular and pelvic arches, and their appended limbs, to the reptilian class. The osseous substance has disappeared; the cavities in the sandstone which contained it remain, stained by a deposit of an ochraceous tint. The impressions are so well defined as clearly to show that there were twenty-six vertebrae between the skull and sacrum, two sacral vertebrae, and thirteen caudal vertebrae, before the tail disappears by dipping into an unexposed part of the matrix. Impressions of twenty-one pairs of ribs are preserved, all very slender, short where they commence near the head, but rapidly gaining length as they are placed further back. The cervical and anterior ribs are expanded, but not bifurcate, at their vertebral end: all the ribs articulate close to the bodies of the vertebrae. In the Crocodilian reptiles the anterior ribs are bifurcate, and the posterior ones, with a simple head, articulate with long diapophyses. The distinctive characters of the Batrachian skeleton are the double occipital condyle; ribs wanting, or very short and subequal; a single sacral vertebra, and rib-shaped ilium. The first character cannot be determined, the occipital articulation not being preserved in the fossil. Instead of the second character, the fossil shows ribs of varied length, and most of them much longer than in the Salamanders, Newts, or any known Batrachian. With regard to the third character, the impression in the old red clearly shows two sacral vertebrae and a short subquadrate pelvis.

Both the humerus and the femur show the Lacertian sigmoid shape, and near equality of length, which distinguish them alike from the Crocodilian and Batrachian orders; they are likewise, as in Lizards, relatively larger than in the Newts and Salamanders. Near the imperfect impression of the head may be seen the hollow bases of some large, slightly compressed, conical teeth, which also tell for the Saurian and against the Batrachian nature of this ancient reptile. I propose to call it, *Leptopleuron lacertinum*.* Many particulars of minor import, bearing upon the more immediate affinities of this most rare and interesting fossil, have been noted, and will be given, with the figures, in my 'History of British Fossil Reptiles,' for which work Mr. Duff has kindly consented to place the specimen at my disposal. In the meanwhile, I beg to offer the above *précis* of the main characters of the fossil. It would seem, however, that Mr. Duff's Lacertian is not the only evidence of reptilian remains in the 'old red,' for I see in your notice of papers for the Geological on Wednesday, a description of a 'Batrachian Reptile,' by Capt. Brickenden and Dr. Mantell.

RICHARD OWEN.

* *Λεπτόρ*, slender, *πλευρόν*, rib: for this compound we have the authority of '*Poikilopleuron*,' already applied to an extinct genus of Saurians.

TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

Captain Warner has published a final appeal to the English people on the subject of his invisible shell and other implements of war. He says that after long years of patient effort to obtain public appreciation of his inventions, he is at length compelled, by duty to himself and his family, to offer to foreign states the power which he would have rather given to his own country. In the report made by Sir Thomas Hardy and Sir Richard Keats to William the Fourth, it was said of the invisible shell, that after frequent trials they were persuaded it would be of the greatest service to this country, as all the harbours, river-ways, and roadsteads, could be defended at a trifling expense and in a short time. "Whatever country possesses it, no other could invade their shores. If France or Spain had these powers it would be impossible for us to retain our power in the Mediterranean, as all the harbours could be blockaded and the fortifications destroyed with the greatest ease. If Russia was in possession of the invisible shell she could make the Black Sea and the Baltic her own." The report of these distinguished admirals has since been confirmed by many high authorities. Equal testimony has been borne by the late Sir George Murray, Master-General of the Ordnance, Lord Hardinge, Sir Harry Smith, and other military men, as to Captain Warner's projectiles. The officials of the Admiralty have, however, contrived to shelve the various reports, and public attention has been only called to the 'long range,' one of the least important of the inventions, and the only one of the value of which there is difference of opinion. It is a great pity that Captain Warner has lost so much time in his appeal to quarters where professional prejudice was against him, and especially to the Lords of the Admiralty. Few could have believed that business of high importance to the country is treated as Captain Warner alleges the report on his invention was. "When the bearer of the report entered the Board-room, the lord to whom it was addressed was not present; but another lord, although informed of its confidential character, tore it open with an expression of derision, and actually read it aloud in the presence of the messenger and several bystanders." Fair play could hardly be expected from men of such stamp. Captain Warner should rather address himself to British merchants, whose interests are most immediately concerned if war arises, or even to the Peace Society, as all deadly implements diminish the frequency and miseries of war. All the reports, certificates, and correspondences, appear in this pamphlet, which in these unsettled times is worthy of the candid consideration of public men. Not the least valuable testimony is that of the Duke of Wellington, who, in his usual laconic way, declined to interfere in a matter not belonging to him as F.M., but added, to Sir George Murray, that "Warner's invention, if adopted, would eventually cut up both the services."

The half-yearly examinations at the two Indian colleges, Addiscombe and Haileybury, have just taken place. The education and training received by those who are to be the civil and military officers of the Hon. East India Company are of the highest order, and on the whole the students show increasing desire to avail themselves of their advantages. It was very satisfactory, for instance, in the report of the Rev. Principal of Haileybury, to find that "all the twenty students constituting the fourth term have been found duly qualified for quitting college; nineteen of these have displayed an amount of proficiency exceeding that which is demanded by the statutes, and many of the number deserve very high commendation for the attainments shown in various departments." The chairman of the Directors, Mr. Shepherd, after the announcement of the prizes and distinctions, addressed the students on both occasions in very sensible and able speeches. Referring to the influence of public opinion at home on the management of the East, he said that "there could no longer be concealment in distance, and in a brief period we shall have the mistakes of incom-

petence, and the offences of indolence, so speeded to us by electricity and steam, that the errors of the courts of Delhi shall be as patent and promptly before us as those of Westminster Hall." The chairman gave also many moral and pious advices, which were backed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, and other speakers. All the excellence of this education and training makes the more painful the state of most of these same young men, after being a short time in India. To read Sir Charles Napier's parting letter and Mr. Shepherd's address together, is almost a ludicrous contrast. By their mode of exercising their patronage, and the careless way of allotting employment to their servants in the East, the Directors neutralize the good influence of colleges so admirably and efficiently conducted as Addiscombe and Haileybury now are.

Readers of the Law Reports have for many years been familiar with the name of Dyce Sombre. The proceedings connected with this unfortunate man's property seemed to be interminable. It looked as if the lawyers, when the roll of cases happened to be disposed of, and nothing particular was in hand, determined to have a turn at the affairs of Dyce Sombre. His body escaped at length from Chancery to the peaceful grave, but of his spirit it cannot be said that 'there the wicked cease from troubling.' A lawsuit has been commenced about his will. With a ludicrous inconsistency, vast legacies have been left to the officials of the East India Company, with whom he has been at variance and at law all his life, while his family and friends are almost ignored. The will is called in question on the ground of insanity; but we think that it must have been purposely framed so as to perpetuate this 'reserve case,' for the lawyers to fall back upon, as heretofore, whenever the business of the court becomes slack.

H.M.S. *Dadalus*, Capt. G. Wellesley, arrived at San Francisco on October 22nd, for Port Clarence, Behring's Straits, which she left on the 18th October. She brought as passengers, Lieutenant Cooper and Dr. Adam, two of the officers of H.M.S. *Plover*, which had made a summer excursion as far as 71 degrees, without any trace of further intelligence of Sir John Franklin. The *Dadalus* visited Port Clarence to reinforce the depot of provisions and stores kept there in case of that point being reached by any of the missing or the exploring parties. The *Dadalus* sailed almost immediately for the Sandwich Islands, to which it was reported that a privateering expedition of three armed ships had started from the Californian coast.

The Prussian Government is engaged at present in modifying the stamp duties. It is proposed that the duty on newspapers should be raised according to the 'superficial area' of the sheet or sheets published. About a halfpenny for every hundred square inches is the rate proposed. Among other important bearings of such an arrangement on literature, there would be inducement to a style of writing more terse and to the point.

Mr. J. O. Halliwell has presented to the Chatham Library of Manchester his valuable collection of proclamations, ballads, poems, bills, and other broad-sheet literature. Of the historical importance of such documents we spoke last week, in reviewing a collected volume of French manifestoes (*ante*, p. 866) relating to the Revolution of 1848. Mr. Halliwell's collection comprises upwards of 3,000 pieces, and a carefully prepared index enhances the value of the gift.

A subscription has been opened for the purpose of presenting a national token of grateful regard to Mr. Grinnell, of New York, who at his own expense fitted and sent out two vessels in 1850, to assist in the search for Sir John Franklin. The Committee includes the names of Sir John Ross, Sir Edward Parry, Captains Kellett, Beechey, Austin, Penny, Sir George Back, Sir John Richardson, and others who have distinguished themselves in Arctic exploration.

In addition to the two steamers and vessels to be sent on the Arctic search in the spring, the Admiralty has just issued orders for the *Phoenix*,

steam sloop of 260-horse power, to be got ready. The *Phoenix* is an old African cruiser, and we are glad that a ship which has been so well tried is to go on this other good service.

We are glad to observe that the colossal bronze statue of Gustavus Adolphus, which was lost in a ship wrecked on the Heligoland sands, has been recovered with little damage, and is about to be forwarded to its destined site at Stockholm.

A monument to the memory of the late George Stephenson is to be erected in the court of the Euston-square railway station. About 3000*l.* have been already contributed. On the committee are Messrs. Glyn, Peto, J. Ellis, Scott Russell, and other influential names connected with engineering or railway interests.

The Chancellorship of the Dublin University, vacant by the death of the King of Hanover, has been conferred on Lord John George Beresford, the Primate of Ireland.

The Rev. Dr. Sadleir, Fellow and Provost of Trinity College, Dublin, died suddenly on the 14th of this month. He was a man of liberal views and charitable feelings, and although in a society not remarkable for catholicity of spirit, his advocacy of all measures of progress and freedom was uniform and zealous. He was appointed to the provostship by the Crown in 1837.

The American obituary contains the name of Dr. De Kay, an eminent physician and a distinguished naturalist, author of works on 'The Natural History of New York,' and other scientific subjects.

We are very sorry to learn from Paris that M. Francis Arago, perpetual Secretary of the Academy of Sciences in that city, and the *savant* of European celebrity, is dangerously ill of diabetes.

From the 'Bengal Hurkaru' we learn that the widow of Tippoo Sahib, the mother of Prince Ghulam Mahomed, died in the beginning of October, at Russapuglah, at the age of 97.

PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL INSTITUTE.—Dec. 5th.—Edward Hawkins, Esq., Treasurer, in the chair. Mr. Farnham Lyte gave an account of a discovery, not less interesting to geologists than to the antiquary, of a cavern in the limestone strata near Brixham, Devon, containing under the floor, formed of stalagmitic crust, various relics of occupation by man, objects of bone, shale, and bronze, with bones of men and animals mixed together. Dr. Mantell, upon being called on to explain this interesting collection of human and fossil bones, pointed out the occurrence of similar assemblages in other caves, both in England and South America; the rapid formation of stalagmite in many of the caverns hermetically sealing up, as it were, the deposits of the early British tribes with the extinct mammalian remains imbedded in the caverns. Among the fossil bones was part of a fine skull of a rein-deer, in a beautiful state of preservation; the remains of this genus are very rare in the caves and drifts of England. Mr. Hawkins read a memoir on a collection of personal ornaments of silver from Tunis, with others from Asia Minor, exhibited to the meeting: they had been brought to this country as part of the specimens of manufacture for the Great Exhibition, and claimed the notice of antiquaries on account of their striking resemblance to the silver ornaments discovered in Cuerdale, Lancashire, with Saxon and other coins, as also to various ancient ornaments in the Museum at Copenhagen, and those discovered in Livonia. He pointed out the interest of these objects when compared with the Anglo-Saxon remains, of which they form a striking illustration, the forms and arrangement being closely similar. They serve to explain the use of the singular brooches and other ornaments found in Ireland, and well deserve a place in the ethnographical collection in the British Museum. Mr. Ffoulkes described some antiquities lately noticed by him in Merionethshire, in a district full of primeval remains, cromlechs, stones of memorial, and sites associated with local traditions. The Rev. Joseph Hunter produced an ancient receipt for making

ink, preserved in the records of the exchequer of North Wales, upon which some remarks were offered by Mr. Westwood, relative to the inks and writing materials used by the ancient scribes in various countries. He stated that the best ink, as far as his knowledge of MSS. enabled him to judge, had been in use in the seventh and eight centuries. Professor Buckman reported the successful results of the investigations at Cirencester during the previous month, and sent drawings of many Roman antiquities already discovered: extensive buildings, part of the ancient suburbs, had been laid open. Mr. Squiers, the distinguished American archaeologist, laid before the Society representations of numerous antiquities discovered by him in Nicaragua, as yet unpublished; and gave a striking outline of the extent of his antiquarian inquiries in the New World, the great variety of remains, and their magnitude, adverting especially to those earthworks, hill-temples, and stone monuments, analogous to those of the Wiltshire plains, Silbury and Abury, which he had that week visited. The antiquities of the Mississippi valley appear to bear most resemblance to those of Europe; but he declared his conviction that there are no vestiges in America sufficient to prove any connexion in ancient times with the nations of the Old World. Amongst the antiquities brought for inspection by various members were some remarkable Egyptian objects, from Dr. Mantell's collection; bronze armlets, with an agate ball, probably talismanic, from the Scilly Islands, brought by Mr. Franks; a collection of antique and medieval bronzes, by Mr. Whincopp; a fine tilting-helmet, recently added to the Tower armoury, being the visored helm of the reign of Richard II.; casts from early sculpture in Prussian Poland, by Mr. Nesbitt; some exquisite gold ornaments, jewelled and enamelled, belonging to Lady Fellows; a collection of Frankish weapons and ancient objects, found near St. Omer; and a fac-simile of the supposed Cufic inscription on St. Peter's chair, at St. Mark's, Venice, taken by Mr. Auldjo during a recent visit. Mr. Vaux stated that this inscription, which had excited much attention, is probably Arabic, and the ornaments are of a Moorish character, resembling the decorations of the fifteenth century at Granada.

STATISTICAL.—Dec. 15th.—Lieut.-Col. W. H. Sykes, Vice-President, in the chair. The Rev. E. W. Edgell read an abstract of a tabular statement, by the Rev. Thos. Bliss, communicated by R. C. Griffith, Esq., "On the Statistics of Places of Worship in England and Wales." It is computed that there are in England and Wales 28,290 churches and chapels, devoted exclusively to purposes of Christian worship; besides which there are 7474 meetings held by evangelical dissenters, in schools or in hired rooms; making altogether a total of 35,764 places of Christian worship. The 28,290 churches and chapels (*i. e.* of the buildings exclusively devoted to sacred purposes) belong to Protestants and Roman Catholics in the following proportion—viz. Protestant places of worship, 97.89 per cent. and Roman Catholics, 2.11 per cent. of the whole number; of the former, more than half (*viz.* 50.55), belong to the Established Church, the rest to Protestant dissenters. It was further shown that, among Christians of every denomination, the numbers of the places of worship have considerably increased during the last quarter of a century. Thus: Increase of Protestant churches and chapels, during twenty years, from 1831 to 1851, (exclusive of a few minor sects,) 7646, or 40.7 per cent.; increase of Roman Catholic chapels in 26 years, from 1825 to 1851, 222, or 59.20 per cent.; increase of Protestant places of worship, as compared with Roman Catholics, 40.7 to 59.20; and the actual number of Protestant places of worship which have been built, as compared with Roman Catholic, 34 to 1. Mr. Leone Levi then read a paper "On the Comparative Statistics of the World, and on an International Code of Commerce." The object of the paper was to suggest means for promoting the extension of knowledge of the resources of countries.

GEOLOGICAL.—Dec. 17th.—D. Sharpe, Esq., F.R.S., in the chair. F. Hindmarsh, Esq., was elected a Fellow. The following papers were communicated:—1. On the Quader-formation of Germany. By Dr. H. B. Geinitz. From some late researches in the Hartz, Professor Geinitz has been enabled to make further additions to his knowledge of the cretaceous rocks of that district, and finds that they may be arranged in the following series:—Upper chalk, Lower chalk, Tourtia, and Neocomian. 2. On the causes of the Changes of Climate in different Geological Periods. By W. Hopkins, Esq., President. 3. On Reptilian Foot-prints and remains of the *Telerpeton Elginense*, in the Devonian sandstone of Moray. By Capt. Brickenden and Dr. Mantell. [The reading of this last paper was deferred until next meeting.]

FINE ARTS.

Ten Centuries of Art. By Henry Noel Humphreys. Grant and Griffith.

IMPRESSED with the thousand efforts which the country is and has been recently making, towards the production of art in all its branches—brought to a test and crisis by the Great Exhibition; and feeling that amongst these various efforts, with much of good, there are mingled elements of danger, Mr. Humphreys has conceived the idea of writing a compendious and comprehensive history of the world's art-progress for the last thousand years. In so small a space, embracing, as he does, the subjects of Architecture, Sculpture, Painting, Metal-work and Textile Fabrics, with Carvings in Wood and Ivory, Mosaic and Glass-work, of every description, and other branches of production in which the arts of design play a conspicuous part, the attempt may appear one of great temerity. But the author writes well out of the knowledge with which his mind is filled. He has large and digested views, and we close his volume with a conviction that he has well timed a work calculated to enlighten the general reader at this epoch, when—as a public—we are only just beginning to feel that we have a national art, and that it is worthy of cultivation. In taking so compendious a course, he has naturally avoided details, even so far as not to name many of the great and prominent masters in the arts of which he has treated; but he has marked all the great changes, and considered their causes; and although we may not always conform to his process of induction, we should in the main have arrived at the same conclusion, namely, that it is madness to "attempt to strain the current of art from its legitimate course," whilst, with us, he looks forward with hope "to the possible advent of an original and national style, both in Architecture and other branches of art, formed on true artistic principles." In so laudable an aim, who does not desire to co-operate? and for that end—although the author rather deprecates criticism, in so far as it may ask for a more elaborate treatment of his subject—we could wish to examine some of his conclusions with strictness, and where we do not, as in most instances we honestly can, agree with his decisions, so fairly to state our causes for objection, as to serve the great object he has in view. We agree with him most entirely, that "in artistic criticism, the expression of individual sentiment is more generally desirable than the cleverest exposition of accepted canons; for while we have many always ready to apply the generally received tests to any work of art, but few are found willing to risk the ordeal of putting forth new ones." He does not shrink from the latter course, and we applaud his courage. But yet, even in the beginning, he seems to us in some measure to have infringed upon the law thus laid down, by dwelling too elaborately upon the accepted origin of the great principles of Architecture. Without feeling that he has committed one error in the restoration of the received canons, he has so lengthened out this part of his subject as to interfere with the symmetry of his composition, and that, too, in writing of matter so far anterior to the period of which he professedly treats. We follow him with agreeable interest in his explication of the origin

of the Gothic, and of the formation of its style down to its decay and fall in this country between the Tudors and the Stuarts. But here we do not think that he lays sufficient stress upon political and religious causes for so great a change. Arising from these, all art suffered a decay, if not in some instances an extinction, and produced a necessity, in the absence of a popular national support, for a leaning on the meagre, spasmodic, and often erring patronage of the monarch. This led to what we conceive to be the great destroyer of all national art—the introduction of exotic power when the nation is not in vigour to cope with it, and when its canons are received without being understood, from the mere prestige of its name. Thus the Roman Architecture, with all its cold inapplicability to the climate, the habits, manners, and customs of the country, was again dragged in to thrust aside that of which it had been the origin, and which had only departed from it to suit the then state of the land of its colonization, and afterwards to grow under national auspices to be the honour and glory of the country in our cathedrals and baronial structures, even down to the condemned Elizabethan art, which, we are inclined to think, will yet be the nearest starting point towards a basis for a true national style. Mr. Humphreys then goes into an essay on Polychromatic Architecture, which, however lucid, one would almost be tempted to think had been here dwelt upon, in some measure, for the purpose of introducing a very beautiful example of Polychromatic printing in the portico of the church of St. Vincent de Paul at Paris. He concludes the subject by some observations on the glass architecture of the Crystal Palace.

In Sculpture, after drawing a very nicely-balanced estimate of the various styles down to the recent schism between the Classicists and Romanticists, the author takes under consideration the statuary of the Great Exhibition, and very properly exposes the bad taste of the public in attaching its interest to the mediocrity of those artists whose third-rate power, however exquisitely produced, has been the result of a tricky device, as in the 'Vestal Virgin,' and other figures, in which the effect of a transparent drapery, covering, yet exposing, the features, is wrought out with such mere mechanical skill. He rather refers the public to the true ideal of sculptural art, as firmly based in nature—individual yet collective—in the 'Amazon' of the German artist Kiss, and as expressing an ideal of that collective nature, founded upon a race rather than upon an individual; he contrasts it with the well-known 'Greek Slave' of Powers, the American, where the errors of a mere individuality, however exquisitely wrought, are destructive to a true sense of refinement, and consequently not true in the highest sense of truth. For ourselves, he bases a high advent of successful art, as begun in the works of Bailey and Macdowell, fully appreciative of Hellenic sculpture, whilst they possess a feeling of national poetic beauty. Need we say that he energetically condemns 'the colossal caricature of the Duke of Wellington' at Hyde-park Corner.

The history of painting, first, perhaps, from the fulness of the subject, and next, from its being better known, he has treated in a style of more conciseness; and brings us rapidly down to the present day in a discussion of the merits of the Pre-Raphaelites, their contemners, and their defenders. Whilst admitting that in avoiding conventionalism they have of necessity abandoned the important and well-established principles of art, he is decidedly amongst their defenders, and in doing so is, as we conceive, much less logical than is his wont. To discuss the question with him would occupy more space than we can now spare; but we shall have many opportunities of returning to and recording our verdict on the subject. In leaving the Pre-Raphaelites, Mr. Humphrey recommends to them the study of the works of the French artist, Leopold Robert, whose 'Harvest Home in the Pontine Marshes' is made to illustrate—a rather tastefully treated chalk engraving—this branch of his history.

We cannot enter minutely into his treatment of the other subjects of his work, which from causes perhaps the reverse of those which influenced his treatment of painting, have occupied more than would at first seem to be their fair share of his attention; but he writes with such clearness and perspicuity, that one cause at least may henceforth be removed, as none need to be ignorant on these growingly important matters after reading his book. We could well conclude here with a repetition of our general recommendation of his labours, were we not compelled to stop in deprecation of the bad temper with which he leaves his readers in a diatribe on the managers of the Great Exhibition, and which seems to have been written in too exasperated a state of feelings for us to admit its reasoning even whilst we might admit its facts.

The illustrations are most elaborately and beautifully executed. The volume is, on the whole, one of the most elegant of the season.

MUSIC.

OF the execution of Handel's *Messiah* by the SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY, on Friday the 12th, we have not much to add that has not been often repeated; it was of the same perfect kind, as regards the general performance, as all those of this Society are, but the solo parts we must confess to having heard with better effect. Miss Birch's singing continues to be occasionally out of tune, and her enunciation of the words, both in the airs and recitatives, somewhat deficient in expression. The florid air, requiring a perfectly flexible voice, 'Rejoice greatly,' was but indifferently well sung by her; but we must award her great praise for the lovely air which forms the second part of 'He shall feed his flock.' In this admired and gentle pastoral Miss Dolby also sang, and with the greatest taste and finish of vocalization. Mr. Lockety filled the tenor part, and Mr. H. Phillips the bass. The band was all that could be desired; the lovely pastoral symphony was especially finely executed, with a nice discrimination of its character and expression. The choruses, on the whole excellent, were not so happy as usual in the difficult 'And he shall purify,' the attacks in the alto were scarcely in time or tune, and the music of this chorus seems to us to require a milder treatment, a less violent character than was given to it on this occasion.

The agreeable reunions at Miss DOLBY's residence, that we have from time to time had the pleasure to notice, were brought to a close on Tuesday evening, with a finale more interesting than any of its predecessors, in the novelty of the music, its nice variety, and good execution. After the trio of Mendelssohn in D minor, played by Messrs. Lindsay Sloper, Blagrove, and Lucas, Miss Dolby sang the aria from Rossi's opera, *Mitrane*, 'Ah rendirmi quel core,' a beautiful example of the purer Italian style, which has been often heard at the late Ancient Concerts; and this she rendered with admirable taste and a thorough appreciation of the style. She afterwards gave two more of the songs of France by M. Gounod; a wooing song, to words of Baif, one of the old French ballad-writers, imitated in English, in a very apt and euphonious manner, by Mr. Chorley. The music of this has a peculiar quaintness, well suited to the kind of composition, and is piquant and pleasing enough. The hunting song, to words by A. de Musset, is less original, and is quite after the manner of other songs descriptive of the sport. The posthumous duo of Mendelssohn, 'à quatre mains,' we were glad to hear for the first time. It was ably executed by Mrs. J. Macfarren and Mr. W. H. Holmes, but we could perceive few only of the good characteristics of the master; the melodic ideas are scanty, and it seems to be overloaded with passages of mere manipulative value. The fantasia for the clarinet, by Reissiger, served to vary the music, and being played by Lazarus, was, in its way, unique. The sonata in G major, op. 35, of Dussek, an example of what might be called the fingering style of piano-forte playing, was carefully executed by Mr. Sloper. A similar kind of piece, the fantasia on themes of l'Elisir d'Amore, by De

Beriot, for the violin, was played with unfailing mechanical skill by Mr. Blagrove. Miss Cicely Nott, a young and so far promising vocalist, sang the 'Batti, batti;' Miss Louisa Pyne triumphed over the difficulties of the Queen of Night's song in the *Zauberflöte*, and afterwards sang a very pleasing MS. duet with Miss Dolby, by Virginia Gabriel, a young lady amateur. Mr. Whitworth, who ranks high amongst our baritones, sang the 'Pietà Signor,' from the *Davidde Penitente*, and in the trio 'Si dira,' from Paer's *Agnese*.

At the Italian Theatre at Paris, Guasco and Mdle. Cruvelli continue to attract fashionable audiences, and the musical critics continue to speak highly of them. The reputation of Madame Barbieri Nini, of the same theatre, also becomes, to use a French phrase, more and more consolidated. At the Grand Opera there has been no novelty. The *Château de la Barbe Bleue* has been repeated at the Opéra Comique, and the freshness and originality of the music have afforded increased pleasure; but the absurd incoherence of the libretto is considered a sad blemish.

Mdile. Alboni has made her appearance at Turin with extraordinary success. Indeed the dilettanti seem to be agreed on this, that nothing approaching to her splendid voice has ever been heard there since the days of Malibran. Her first appearance was in the *Cenerentola*, but owing to the orchestra not being quite up to the mark, she did not cause so great a sensation as subsequently in the *Barbiere di Siviglia*, in which her talents shone forth in all their splendour.

A few months ago we announced that the publication of the posthumous works of Paganini was about to take place; they have just appeared in Paris, and are preceded by a notice by M. Fetis. They consist of two concertos in *mi bémol* and *si mineur*, of an *allegro de sonata*, entitled 'Movimento perpetuo,' and of a series of variations on the *Streghe*, on 'God Save the King,' on the air 'Di tanti palpiti,' and on other airs and themes. Paganini always guarded these things with religious care, and never allowed any one to see them. It was, it may be remembered, at the suggestion of Napoleon's sister, Madame de Baciocchi, that Paganini first began to use only one string to his violin, and that was after he had played, with immense success with only two, before her court at Lucca. He left a fortune of nearly £80,000, and M. Fiorentino, the musical critic of the *Paris Constitutionnel*, tells us that his son and heir preserves it with the same greedy avarice as he amassed it.

The widow of Weber, who resides at Vienna, having expressed a desire to present the autograph scores of her distinguished husband's three great operas to the sovereigns of the states in which they were first represented, the Emperor of Austria ordered them to be given to her from the Imperial Library at Vienna; and she has presented that of *Eurianthe* to the King of Saxony, that of *Freischütz* to the King of Prussia, and that of *Oberon* to the Queen of England.

THE DRAMA.

THE LYCEUM opened on Monday, with, however, so slight a change of performance, as scarcely to mark the commencement of a new season. The decorations of the house have been in some measure renewed, and the *salle* has lost none of the cheerful elegance of aspect it has held since the beginning of the Vestris management. The opening piece was *A Game of Speculation*, which had been played a few nights when the theatre closed in October, and then at a time when the places of amusement were filled almost exclusively by country visitors to the Great Exhibition, that its merits are scarcely known to the London public. This, and the near approach of Christmas novelties, were probably the cause of the house not being so well attended as is usual on the first night of the season. Mr. C. Mathews, who played the long and difficult part of *Mr. Affable Hawk*, with all that spirit and ease for which his acting is so remarkable, was received with hearty applause; and Mr. Frank Matthews,

the characteristic humour of whose acting in *Earthworm* is still marred by a tendency to exaggeration, with his clever wife and other favourite members of the company, received due honours in the course of the evening. At the end of the comedy, the 'National Anthem' was sung by Madame Vestris and Misses St. George and Martindale; the verse which fell to the share of the manageress calling forth, as it deserved, from the taste with which it was sung, loud marks of approbation. The other pieces were *Forty and Fifty*, and *A Practical Man*. Mrs. Chatterly, known to the play-goers of five-and-twenty years ago as a dashing and attractive actress in genteel comedy, is announced to return to the stage here; and Miss Laura Keane, from the Olympic, has joined the company. The burlesque in preparation is written, as usual, by M. Planché.

At the other theatres there has been nothing whatever of novelty, the few nights before Christmas having been, as usual, abandoned to whatever staple commodities the various managements have on hand at the time. Drury Lane, we hear, opens with *Antony and Cleopatra*, and a pantomime, which latter species of amusement is also in preparation at the Princess's. At the Haymarket, Lyceum, Adelphi, and Strand, the holiday freaks are to be presented, with burlesques; while the numerous transpontine and other *banlieue* theatres seem vying with each other in their promises of furnishing their patrons with Christmas entertainments of a more striking character than usual. On the other hand, as if to curb their flights, the Chamberlain has imposed several new and, to us it seems, unnecessary restraints upon the efforts to amuse by a class of people who are certainly not redundant of humour, or too happy in its pointed application to subjects of the day.

Our Paris accounts mention the reappearance of Mlle. Rachel at the Théâtre Français, in her favourite character of *Camille*, in *Les Horaces*. Although she has been scampering over the continent and the Italian peninsula for months past, she appeared not at all fatigued, and her performance, as usual, created unbounded admiration.

The Français has in preparation several other important novelties, in addition to Pousard's *Ulysse*, mentioned last week. Amongst them is a five-act historical drama, by Emile Augier, called *Diane*. Report speaks most highly of its literary and dramatic merit, and Rachel is to take the principal female character, the others being supported by the *élite* of the company. The scene is laid in the time of Cardinal Richelieu, and that great statesman is introduced. New pieces by Méry and Scribe have also been accepted.

At the Variétés and the Montansier, the 'reviews,' which generally make their appearance at this season, have been brought out. Like English pantomimes, these pieces caricature, with more or less wit, the principal events of the past year; they are, however, real dramas, not the dumb shows we have. Neither of the two are particularly brilliant, but they address themselves to such people as Sterne wished for his readers—"those who are pleased they know not why and care not wherefore"—and are exceedingly laughed at. The London Exhibition, and the alleged injustice done to French exhibitors in the distribution of prizes, are particularly satirised.

The managers of the Paris theatres are now making another attempt to have the duty of 11 per cent. on their gross receipts, taken for the hospitals, reduced to 3 or 1. They represent, very justly, that it is unreasonable that public amusements should be taxed for the hospitals, when every other branch of mercantile industry is exempt; also, that the amount levied is exorbitant in such sad times as these; and furthermore, that the hospitals, having an immense revenue, might afford to do without it. But it is doubtful if they will "take anything by their motion."

NEW MUSIC.—We have just received Part IX. of the Messrs. ROBERT COCKS and CO.'s GENERAL CATALOGUE of NEW MUSIC, vocal and instrumental; and we have been surprised at the vast amount of all descriptions of rare melody and choice song which we perceive by the Catalogue have issued from their princely establishment. Would that this unhappy country had a few such enterprising publishers like the Messrs. Cocks, how many now idle hands would obtain employment. The Catalogue in question may be had gratis and postage free in any part of these kingdoms, by application to Messrs. Cocks, New Burlington-street, London.—Vide the Wexford Independent, Dec. 13, 1851. Also a List of CLASSICAL and STANDARD MUSICAL WORKS, 1 to 134, for presents, &c.

WANTED BY A PRINTER, either a Weekly or Monthly Publication or a Magazine. Having a small quantity of type disengaged, the terms would be moderate. Apply by letter, post paid, to B. D., at Messrs. Herring, Dewick, and Hardy, Wholesale Stationers, 31, Walbrook.

MINERALOGY and GEOLOGY.—The very extensive Collection of Minerals, Rocks, and Fossils, called the BUCKINGHAM COLLECTION, was purchased at the Stowe Sale by Mr. TENNANT, Geologist, 149, Strand, London. It is one of the finest private collections in this country, and worthy the attention of any person wishing to form a first-rate Museum. The Catalogue of MINERALS, arranged according to Phillips's Mineralogy, describes 3100 specimens. The Catalogue of ROCKS and FOSSILS, arranged according to Brongniart, describes 3000 specimens. Mr. Tennant has been offered £20 for one specimen, and £25 for another, but he would prefer selling the Collection entire for £1000, which is not a fourth part of the original cost.

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An Extraordinary General Meeting of the PROPRIETORS and the ASSURED of this Society will be held at the Office in Great Russell Street, on Thursday, the 1st day of January next, at Two o'clock precisely, for the purpose of declaring a BONUS out of the Profits which have accrued from the general business of the Society during the five years ending June 30, 1851.

GEO. H. PINCKARD, Resident Secretary.
99, Great Russell Street, Bloomsbury.
December, 1851.

LEGAL AND GENERAL LIFE ASSURANCE OFFICE, 10, Fleet Street, London (near Temple Bar).—Indisputable Policies.—The next division of profits will be declared in the year 1852. Parties will be entitled to participate who take out assurances before the expiration of the present year.

The annual income of the Society exceeds £110,000, and the investments exceed £630,000.

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Nov. 1851. THOMAS ROWE EDMONDS, Actuary.

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EAGLE INSURANCE COMPANY.
London, Aug. 8, 1851.

At the Annual General Meeting of Proprietors, held this day, the Hon. JOHN CHETWYND TALBOT, Q.C., the Chairman of the Company, in the chair, a Report was read, from which it appeared—

That the income of the Company for the year ending June 30, 1851, was £140,338 1 9
The premium on policies issued in the year .. 5,399 13 9
The claims on deceased lives assured .. 83,691 1 9
The expenses .. 5,686 5 0
The total assets of the Company .. 704,010 14 0

The report entered into further details, and finished by stating that the directors felt it unnecessary to dwell further upon the items of the year's account, as the quinquennial valuation to be made in June next was so near.

The report was unanimously adopted, and some routine business having been disposed of, the thanks of the meeting were very cordially voted to the chairman, directors, and officers of the Company, when the meeting separated.

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3, Crescent, New Bridge Street, Blackfriars, Sept. 1851

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GEORGE GRANT,

Agent and Secretary for London.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.—The GARDENS of the ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY, in the Regent's Park, will be open to VISITORS, on payment of SIXPENCE each, EVERY DAY except Sunday, from Christmas Eve to January 6th inclusive.

The HIPPOPOTAMUS and the URAN UTAN are exhibited from 11 to 4 o'clock.

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and NEW YEAR'S PRESENTS.—Sensible that the season is approaching when love and friendship give their tangible testimonials, Mechi has taken care to provide an abundance of objects for tasteful selection. None need deny themselves the luxury of giving, for the most inexpensive as well as the most costly articles are to be found at his repository of utilities and elegancies, 4, Leadenhall Street, near the India House. England has always been renowned for its hearty Christmas liberality, while "Le Jour de l'an" of our lively neighbours (the French) is equally celebrated to the gifts of affection. Mechi invites a visit from the natives of all countries to his emporium, where they may be sure of putting their kind intentions into an acceptable shape. A new feature has been added to his elegant show rooms by the removal from the Great Exhibition of the unique glass cases, which excited so much admiration. Within them are displayed to the greatest advantage a superb stock of ladies' and gentlemen's dressing cases, work boxes, tea trays, work tables, chess tables, tea caddies, card cases, &c. Those who desire to make really useful presents will find in the general department the best table cutlery, scissors, thimbles, penknives, writing desks, ivory and other hair brushes and combs, and a variety of goods adapted to every exigency; also, bagatelle tables, affording a charming amusement on a wintry or wet day.—4, Leadenhall Street.

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